FRIDAY
August 4, 2023

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CITY EDITION
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Vol.54 • No.184

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SAFETY NET

Data Protection Bill tabled in Lok Sabha

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Himalayan vulture breeds in captivity

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BUOYANT DEMAND

Services PMI touches 13-year high in July

BUSINESS » PAGE 18

PARLEY

Should the age of consent be revised in India?

Bombay High Court's suggestion stirs debate

OPINION » PAGE 13

HISTORIC

Gukesh overtakes Anand in live rankings

SPORT » PAGE 19

Govt. imposes curbs on import of laptops, computers, tablets

New regulations require import licences with immediate effect; move will hit short-term availability of Dell, HP, Lenovo, Apple laptops, but will be a boost for domestic sector; devices imported for research and development given exemption

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Union government on Thursday restricted all imports of laptops, tablets, and all-in-one and small-factor personal computers (PCs), requiring licences for these products to be brought into the country and sold to consumers.

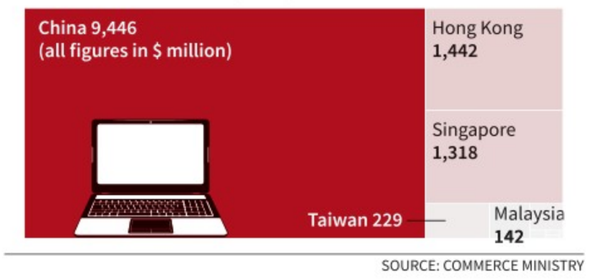
The move is expected to particularly impact short-term laptop availability from laptop brands that rely on assembly abroad, such as Dell, HP, Lenovo and Apple.

The notification may entail longer wait times for individual products to be cleared for import and sale in India.

"The said Restriction shall not be applicable to imports under Baggage Rules," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in its notification announcing the curbs, indicating that travellers may be free to bring one of these products back with them from overseas without attracting penalties.

Laptops can still be purchased online from overseas, the government clarified.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14


China's iron grip
In FY22 and FY23, India imported $9,446 million worth of laptops from China. Hong Kong was a distant second
China 9,446
(all figures in $ million)
Hong Kong 1,442
Singapore 1,318
Taiwan 229
Malaysia 142
SOURCE: COMMERCE MINISTRY

Over nine lakh trees likely to be axed for Great Nicobar Project

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Centre's ambitious ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar Project may see 9.64 lakh, and not 8.5 lakh, trees felled to enable the construction of a transshipment port, an international airport, a township, and a 450- MVA gas- and solar-based power plant on the Great Nicobar island, according to a response by Minister of State (Environment) Ashwini Kumar Choubey in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

There is also a possibility that fewer trees may be axed, he indicated.

The Great Nicobar Project, which is likely to come up over 130 square km of pristine forest, has been accorded environmental clearance by an expert committee.

Challenged in NGT

However, this was challenged in the National Green Tribunal (NGT), following which it set up an expert committee in April to investigate aspects of the clearance.

Though details of a project being appraised for environmental clearance are usually made available on a public portal maintained by the Environment Ministry, details on the Great Nicobar Project have not been put up, it is learnt, following instructions from the Union Home Ministry that has classified the project as one of "strategic importance".

However, as *The Hindu* reported in November 2022, based on documents then available, the Environment Ministry on its own had estimated that close to 8.5 lakh trees were expected to be cut for the project.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

NEARBY

'Many govt. schools lack access to water'

BENGALURU
Several government schools in Karnataka lack basic facilities, with about 28% of high schools and 32% of primary schools lacking access to even clean drinking water, says the SAS report. » Page 5

Complaints against Namma Yatri app

BENGALURU
Many commuters are now disappointed that the number of ride cancellations has increased on Namma Yatri, an app which was pitched as an alternative to aggregator apps.

» Page 2

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Supreme Court: Can you equate Article 370 with Basic Structure?

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked whether Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, is being equated with the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud was reacting to senior advocate Kapil Sibal's submission that there was no constitutional process available to revoke Article 370, and the provision had attained a "permanent character" after 1957 when the J&K Constituent Assembly dissolved, leaving the Article unchanged.

"The abrogation of Article 370 was a purely political act. There was nothing within the constitutional structure which empowered the President or the Parliament to abrogate Article 370," Mr. Sibal argued.

'COMPACT OF SOVEREIGNS' » PAGE 14

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Verstappen and Red Bull have left the others far behind

Teammate Perez has flattered to deceive after the twin successes at the beginning; the battle for the second-best team has been quite impressive and would be the one to watch out for when the season resumes with the Dutch GP on August 27

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Activists give thumbs up to govt's taxi, auto booking app proposal

Auto, cab aggregators

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy announced plans to create a taxi and auto booking app similar to Ola and Uber

The total number of autos in Karnataka is **4,69,619**

There are **14** registered app-based cab aggregators in Karnataka

Kerala is the first State to introduce an online taxi service owned by a State government called 'Kerala Savari'

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The State government's plan to create a taxi and auto booking app has garnered positive responses from activists and commuters. While the move is seen as a much-needed improvement to the transportation system, there are calls for the government to consult stakeholders before moving forward with the initiative.

Ravi Krishna, a regular commuter from BTM Layout, expressed his support for the initiative, stating, "This is a much-needed move. We need more players in the market to avoid the existing duopoly. The surge pricing issue should also be addressed. Additionally, many drivers have raised concerns about the high commission charged by cab aggregators."

Shilpa Rao, from HSR Layout, also lauded the decision, emphasising the significance of maintaining the app's credibility. "It's a good move, but the government needs to take strict action against any misuse of the app. Furthermore, we should explore options like shared cabs, shared autos, and bike taxis to address the last-mile connectivity issues faced by commuters," she commented.

Gururaj Kumar, another commuter from Baiappanahalli, voiced concerns about the harassment by auto drivers and their refusal to use meters, which leads passengers to depend upon private aggregators. Activists emphasised the app's potential but insisted on stakeholder consultation. Vinay Sreenivasa, member of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike, suggested that while the idea holds promise, the government must consult with auto drivers to ensure a smooth implementation.

Tara Krishnaswamy, cofounder of Citizens for Bengaluru, noted: "This idea can be beneficial for both passengers and drivers. Drivers could potentially earn 20-30% more compared to private aggregators and have the freedom to accept rides. It could also ease the long-standing issues of kerbside taxis in Bengaluru, the non-metered autos. Kerala has already implemented a similar system, and it has been successful."

T.M. Rudramurthy, General Secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union of Bengaluru, welcomed the government's decision. "We already run the successful Namma Yatri app. The government's plan for an auto and taxi aggregator will further help auto drivers," he said.

Commuters complain of increased cancellation of rides on Namma Yatri app

Autorickshaw drivers' union general secretary says the problem of refusing rides has existed ever since autos were introduced

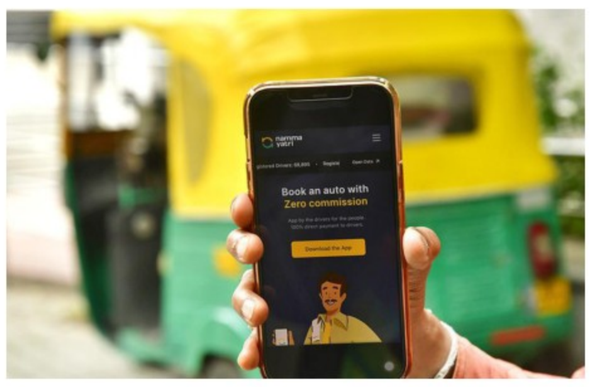
Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

"Last week, I had to go from Mehkri Circle to New BEL Road. I hailed a ride on Namma Yatri app, which I had been using for a few weeks. The driver accepted my ride, and came to pick me up. After I got inside the autorickshaw, he asked me where exactly my drop location was. When I revealed the drop location, he made me get out of the auto and cancelled my ride," narrated Surabhi Sharma, a data analyst in north Bengaluru.

Many commuters are now disappointed that the number of ride cancellations has increased on Namma Yatri, an app which was pitched by many autorickshaw drivers as an alternative to aggregator apps, without problems like ride cancellation that was the bane of Ola and Uber.

"The driver's reason to cancel the ride seemed very unreasonable to me. He claimed that he had assumed my drop location was Matthikere, and that he did not want to come to New BEL Road. While a couple of my rides were cancelled on the app before, this was a shocking experience, especially on an app created by auto drivers themselves," Ms. Sharma continued.

Many ride hailers told *The Hindu* that they had installed Namma Yatri as quite a few autorickshaw drivers had sold the idea of an app where there would be no cancellations.



With around 80,000 trips a day, Namma Yatri app was being seen as a success story in Bengaluru. Auto drivers have collectively earned ₹90 crore through the app since its launch in 2022. FILE PHOTO

Prabhakar S., a resident of Rajajinagar, said, "A few months ago, whenever I booked a ride on other apps, the auto drivers would tell me about Namma Yatri. They told me that while the cost would be cheaper on the app (as there would be no commission), the drivers would also not cancel the rides.

"However, in the last two weeks, at least three of my rides have been cancelled a few minutes after the app showed that a driver was coming to pick me up. I continue to use the app as it costs ₹10-20 lesser when compared to other apps. But this issue of cancellation needs to be addressed. We do not need the same problems on 10 different apps."

Namma Yatri is an open-source app launched by the Autorickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU), along with Juspay Technologies and Beckn Foundation. With around 80,000 trips a day, the app was being seen as a success story in Bengaluru. Auto drivers have collectively earned ₹90 crore through the app since its launch in November 2022.

Addressing the cancellation complaint, Autorickshaw Drivers' Union general secretary T.M. Rudramurthy said, "The problem of refusal has existed ever since autorickshaws have been on the streets. Our main aim with the app was to stop the looting of customers by other aggregators. While some auto drivers make mistakes, many others are making good use of the app to serve people. Some auto drivers are not well-educated about the etiquette we follow, which includes not refusing rides. Within our union, we often teach them to be good to customers. We will address this issue of cancellation too." He claimed that there will be no cancellations on MetroMitra, a WhatsApp-based chatbot and application which is expected to help last-mile connectivity between metro stations and homes. "We are deploying only professional drivers for that service. They will always wear a uniform and only take up rides which they want."

GAIL Gas Ltd. reduces PNG prices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

GAIL Gas Limited (GGL), a city Gas Distribution company for Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts has reduced its industrial and commercial PNG prices by ₹12.75 / MMBTU.

It said that in line with the company's commitment to promote cleaner fuels and supporting India's transition towards a gas-based economy, GAIL Gas is passing on the benefits to the end users.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Bank of Baroda, Vijayanagara Branch, Bangalore intends to accept the under mentioned schedule property standing in the name of Sri. T.K. Narayanappa as security for a loan / credit facility requested by him. In case of anyone has got any right / title / interest / claims over the under mentioned schedule property, they are advised to approach the undersigned or the bank within 10 days from the date of this notice along with necessary proof to substantiate the said claim. If no response is received **within 10 days** it is presumed that the schedule property is free to any charge/claim/encumbrance and Bank shall proceed with the mortgage.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing site No.98, BBMP new Municipal No.98, BBMP PID No.36-76-98, situated at Ward No.105-Agrahara Dasarahalli, 17th cross, Magadi Road Chord Road Extension, Bangalore-560040, measuring East to West 60ft., and North to South 90 ft., totally measuring 5400 sq. ft., and bounded on: **East by:** Site No.99, **West by:** Site No.97, **North by:** Site No.110, **South by:** Road

The Branch Head, Bank of Baroda, Vijayanagara Branch, Bangalore. Ph.No. 9036782086

M. SEETHARAMA SHETTY, Advocate
No.209/1, L.V. Complex Opp. Shree Maruthi Hospital and Soundarya Links Apartment Link Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020.
Mob: 9448085812 / 7760357766

NOTICE FOR SALE OF VEHICLES

The undersigned invites sealed tenders for disposal of vehicles on AS IS-WHERE IS basis:

Sl No	Description of Vehicle	Model
1.	Maruti Omni	2009
2.	Mahindra Scorpio	2012
3.	Mahindra Bolero	2010
4.	Hero Super SPL (Two-Wheeler)	2014
5.	Hero Honda SPL (Two-Wheeler)	2013

2. Interested persons may inspect the vehicles in any working days from 05.08.2023 to 21.8.2023 between 1100hrs to 1600hrs at basement of Sir Visveswaraya Kendriya Bhavan, 1st Stage Domlur, Bengaluru- 560071. Last date for submission of tender form is 23.08.2023, 1100 hrs. Earnest Money Deposit for Four-wheelers is Rs. 5000/- and two-wheelers is Rs. 1000/-.

3. Contact MTO (Mobile no. 7975858406) for inspection of vehicles, terms and conditions, tender form and other details.

Sd/-
Assistant Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner: **HANSOGE ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED,** having its registered office at No. 35/1, 2nd Floor, Yellappa Chetty Layout, Ulsoor Road, Civil Station, Bangalore – 560042.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of an immovable property being a Hotel building under construction comprised of two levels of basement, ground plus five upper floors with 174 rooms having total built up area of 14879.51 sq.mtr built in the land bearing Khatha No.303/115/116/117 (earlier Sy.No.73 then Sy.Nos.115,116 and 117) totally measuring 1 Acre 6 Guntas (50,094 sq.ft.,), bearing E-Khatha No.150300200400100787 situated at Kannamangala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on :

East by : Bangalore - Bellary Road,
West by : Portion of Sy.No.117 & Sy.No.90 of Kannamangala Village,
North by : Portion of Sy.No.115, 116, 117 of Kannamangala Village,
South by : Portion of Sy.No.115, 116 & Sy.No.90 of Kannamangala Village.

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

FORM No. 22
General Notice in Respect of Interlocutory Application
IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
Notice to the R-8 and 11
vide order dated: 26.07.2023
R.S.A. No. 864/2020

Sri N B Gangadhara ...Appellants
(By Smt. Rakshitha .D.J and Anr for D.L.J. and Associates - Advs)
V/s.,
Sri J R Samuel and Ors., ...Respondents
(By Sri Laxmikantha .K.B - Adv for R-1)
TO: RESPONDENTS

R-8. RAMACHARI S/o Late Venkataswamy Achari, Aged about 57 years, R/at Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk - 560103.

R-11. SRI OABHA REDDY S/o Late Narasimha Reddy, Aged about 69 years, R/at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk - 560103.

WHEREAS the above named appellant has preferred I.A. No. 1/2020 as in the copy annexed hereunto, praying this court to condone the delay of 216 days in filing the above Appeal.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorised by law, to act for you in this case **on 25.09.2023 at 10.30 am** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail so to appear, the appeal will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this court, this the **26th Day of July, 2023.**

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BENGALURU (CCH.75)
P & SC. No. 25054/2023

BETWEEN : 1. Smt. Gangadhar Palli Narmada Bai, W/o. Late. Gangadhar Palli Srinivas Rao, Aged about years, O.U. Colony, Shaikpet, Hyderabad-500 082.

2. GANGADHAR PALLI SRINATH, S/o. Late. Gangadhar Palli Srinivas Rao, Aged major, residing at D.No.8-12-284/04/533, O.U. Colony Shaikpet, Hyderabad-500 082. Now Residing at D.No. 1379, E Block, 5th Cross, 6th Main, Kundanahalli, AESC Layout, Bengaluru-37.
...PETITIONERS
AND : NIL ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the above named has made petition to this Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act, for grant of Succession Certificate in favour of petitioners in respect of the schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by Sridhar Gangadhar Palli, Archana .G, Alankritha .G, Anirudh .G who are met with an Road Traffic Accident who are expired on 24th December, 2020.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this Court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **31.08.2023 at 11.00 AM**, inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

1) House Property situated at D.No. 1379, E Block, 5th Cross, 6th Main, Kundanahalli, AECS Layout, Bengaluru - 560 037. Bounded : **East by :** Site No. 1400, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Site No. 1380, **South by :** Site No. 1378.
2) SBI A/c. No. 1000247517 of Ms. Archana and Mr. Sridhar Amount of Rs.4,93,969.14 with up to date interest till realization
3) ICICI Bank A/c. No.000201027054 and 233801000768 held by Sridhar Gangadharpalli and Gangadharpalli, Alankritha respectively with upto date interest till the date of realization.
Gangadharapalli Sridhar in A/c.No. Rs.92,972-00 as on 31.8.2021 Gangadharpalli Alankritha A/c. No.04450-00 as on 31.8.2021
4) Insurance amount of below four policies bearing Numbers as under:
a) Policy No.950318648
b) Policy No.950318649
c) Policy No.950318650
d) Policy No.950318651
5) Provident Fund Amount and Gratuity Amount of Kum. Alankritha to be settled by the Deloitte Company and PF office.

Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on this the 02.08.2023.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore.
MAHADEVAIAH .K.B., Advocate
No. 87/3, 3rd Floor, 4th Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009. Mobile : 99640 77351

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has intended to purchase the lands described in the schedule mentioned hereunder. The said properties standing in the name of Smt. Nagarathanamma W/o Late. Muniswamachar. If any person has got any objections, right, title or interest in any manner whatsoever in the schedule properties, may approach the following addressees with the documents of title in the schedule properties within 10 days from today.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of property Old Sy.No.104/5B measuring 2.5 guntas situated at Byatarayanapura, Yelahanka Hebbal, Bengaluru North Taluk, and bounded on:-

East by: Road West by: Prema's Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Anjana's Property.

Sri.Thyagaraja.B,
Advocate,
5/1, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross,
Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Blr-03.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Construction Organisation, South Western Railway invites applications for Re-engagement on contract basis as **LAND ACQUISITION ASSOCIATE** from eligible Retired State Government employees who had superannuated from Revenue/Forests Departments as Revenue Inspectors OR alike, OR in Pay Band 27650-52650, 30350-58250 of Karnataka State Govt. Pay scale OR regular Group 'C' post in Pay Level – 7 of 7th CPC or equivalent.

Total number of requirements is for **06 posts.**

The Last Date for receipt of Applications through e-mail at **recruitment.cnswr@gmail.com** is **21.08.2023** in a Single and Legible PDF File.

For further instructions/notification/other details please visit **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in** → About Us → Construction Organisation → Recruitment

Deputy Chief Personnel Officer / Construction
Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/280/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways southwesternrailway_swr SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Construction Organisation, South Western Railway invites applications for engagement of **SENIOR TECHNICAL ASSOCIATE / JUNIOR TECHNICAL ASSOCIATE (STA/JTA)** on Contract basis from open market in Civil Engineering, Signal & Telecommunication and Electrical departments.

Total number of requirements is for **35 posts.**

The Last Date for receipt of Applications is **17-08-2023**

For further instructions/notification/other details please visit - **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in** → About Us → Construction Organisation → Recruitment

Deputy Chief Personnel Officer / Construction
Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/278/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
SIGNALING WORK AND VARIOUS OTHER WORKS

DRM (S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms / Contractors for the following works: **Name of Work with its Locality:** Signaling Work in connection with Removal of Bad Layout in Kalaburagi-Wadi Section. **Tender No.: SUR-N-T-23-24-21. Approximate Cost of the Work:** ₹ 1289300.24. **Cost of the Tender Form:** Nil. **Earnest Money to be Deposited:** ₹ 25,800/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 06 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 24/08/2023 after 15.00 hrs. The details are available in IREPS website. Corrigendum / amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual / postal / e-mail, Fax, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.** For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

E-Tender Notice No.: SUR-N-T-23-24-21/Bad/SDB Date 02/08/2023

Download UTS App for Tickets
S&T/SUR/65

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJATH, S. S/o Suresh M. aged about 21 years, residing at No 3H, Lansdowne Virginia, Near R.K.Hegde Nagar, Chokkanahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560 064 have changed my Name from **RAJATH .S to AASHISH .B** Vide Affidavit dated 02.08.2023 sworn before advocate & notary H.K. Gopala Gowda, Bangalore

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
IMPROVEMENT OF WADI YARD & VARIOUS OTHER WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur On Behalf of The President of India, invites e-tenders from the reputed firms / Contractor for the following works.

Sr.No.:1. Tender Notice No.: 53-2023-DENS. Name of Work: Improvement of Wadi Yard under SSE/P.Way/SDB Section under ADEN/KLBG Sub-Division. **Approx. Cost of Work:** ₹ 27996378.41. **Earnest Money:**₹ 290000/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:** Nil.

Sr.No.:2. Tender Notice No.: 54-2023-DENS. Name of Work: Miscellaneous P.Way Work under SSE/P.Way/SDB Section under ADEN/KLBG Sub-Division. **Approx. Cost of Work:** ₹ 26040540.88. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 280200/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:** Nil.

Sr.No.:3. Tender Notice No.: 55-2023-DENS. Name of Work: Supply of Monsoon Material at Dudhani, Tikekarwadi and Wadi Station. **Approx. Cost of Work:** ₹ 10492229.89. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 202500/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 30 Days. **Maintenance Period:** Nil.

Sr.No.:4. Tender Notice No.: 56-2023-DENS. Name of Work: PQRS Yard proposed at Hotagi (HG) Yard for CTR(P)/TSR(P) Work under ADEN/SUR(T) in Solapur Division. **Approx. Cost of Work:** ₹ 7903957.34. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 158100/-. **Completion Period of the Work:** 06 Months. **Maintenance Period:** Nil.

Last Date & Time of Uploading Quoted Tender on www.ireps.gov.in website: 23/08/2023 up to 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 23/08/2023 at 15.30 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. **Website : www.ireps.gov.in**

E-Tender Notice No: 53, 54, 55 & 56-2023-DENS Date: 02/08/2023

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S&T/SUR/66

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has intended to enter into a joint development in the lands described in the schedule mentioned hereunder. The said properties standing in the name of Smt. Anjana. B. N D/o Late.Narayanappa,. If any person has got any objections, right, title or interest in any manner whatsoever in the schedule properties, may approach the following addressees with the documents of title in the schedule properties within 10 days from today.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of immovable property Sy.No.1/9 measuring 6 guntas situated at Byatarayanapura, Yelahanka Hebbal, Bengaluru North Taluk, and bounded on:-

East by: Sy.No.1/8, West by: Sy.No. 1/5A, North by: Sy.No.104/5, South by: Sy.No.1/6 and 17.

SCHEDULE II

All that piece and parcel of property Old Sy.No.104/5B and New Sy.No104/5B2, Sy.No104/5B3 Sy.No104/5B4, and Sy.No104/5B5 measuring 9.5 guntas out of which 6.5 guntas is left over after acquisition of land by NHAI through the notification issued in the year 2004, situated at Byatarayanapura, Yelahanka Hebbal, Bengaluru North Taluk, and bounded on:-

East by: NH-7 West by: Sy.No.105, North by: Sy.No.104/5A South by: Sy.No.1/1,1/5A, 1/9 and 1/4.

Sri.Thyagaraja.B,
Advocate,
5/1, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross,
Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Blr-03.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in pursuance of the intent of our client **("Client")** to develop the Schedule Property from the Owner, wherein representations and assurances have been made that the Owner has clear and marketable title and the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances.

All persons/entities, including individuals, companies, banks, financial institutions, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title, benefit, liability, interest and/or demand of whatsoever nature against /upon/in respect of the Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by operation of law or otherwise, assignment, hypothecation, covenant, power of attorney, agreement of sale, memorandum of understanding, partnership, easement, gift, inheritance, pledge, lease, sub-lease, lien, attachment, license, mortgage, succession, beneficial interest under any trust, allotment, sale, will, transfer, partition, release, relinquishment, or under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or award passed by any court or authority or otherwise claiming howsoever or claiming to be in custody /possession of the title deeds, documents and writing pertaining thereof ("Claims") are required to give notice in writing along with relevant documentary proof in that regard to the undersigned at the office, M/s. King Stubb & Kasiva, 1A, 1B & 2B, Lavelle Mansion, 1/2, Lavelle Road, Bengaluru - 560 001, India within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be deemed that the claimant(s) have relinquished such Claims and/or waived the right to exercise such claims and the right, title and interest of the Owner to the Schedule Property and the said Property shall be deemed to be clear and marketable and free from all encumbrances of any nature whatsoever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties bearing Survey No. 38 measuring 7 Acres 24 Guntas and Survey No. 39 measuring 5 Acres 29 Guntas, Survey No. 42 measuring 3 Acres 26 Guntas, Survey No. 42 measuring 3 Acres 10 Guntas, Survey No. 40 measuring 3 Acres, Survey No. 41 measuring 6 Acres 32 Guntas, Survey No. 47 measuring 5 Acres 10 Guntas, Survey No. 44 measuring 5 Acres 7 Guntas, Survey No. 45 measuring 3 Acres and Survey No. 46 measuring 3 Acres 39 Guntas in all measuring 47 Acres 17 Guntas situated at Lakkenahalli Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as:

East by : Land bearing Survey No.26 of Shingenahalli Village,
West by : Land bearing Survey No.27 of Lakenahalli Village,
North by : Land bearing Survey No.49 and 50 of Lakenahalli Village; and
South by : Alappanahalli Border.

Ms. Asha Kiran Sharma
Partner
King Stubb & Kasiva
Advocates and Attorneys
1A,1B & 2B, Lavelle Mansion, 1/2,
Lavelle Road, Bengaluru - 560 001, India
Phone: 080 41179111/222/333
Date: 02.08.2023 Place: Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION, Construction & Maintenance Group
ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058,
Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094184, 4196, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Sealed Item rate E-Tenders** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by **Group Head,** ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58(Ph:2809 4541).

Name of work	**Annual Service Contract for Operation of Air Conditioning Installations at different locations at IDSN Campus, Baylalu, ISTRAC, Bengaluru**	**Annual Service Contract for Operation of Air Conditioning installations at different locations in SCC, MOX Campus and at SSA Control Centre (NETRA), Peenya, ISTRAC, Bengaluru.**
E-Tender Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/A.C/MAINT/E-Tender-28/2023-24, DATED: 02.08.2023**	**ISTRAC/CMG/A.C/MAINT/E-Tender-29/2023-24, DATED: 02.08.2023**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 37.40 Lakhs**	**Rs. 36.72 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**12 Months** (With a provision to extend the contract for a period of two more years with same terms and conditions)	**12 Months** (With a provision to extend the contract for a period of two more years with same terms and conditions)
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 Hrs. on 04.08.2023 to 21.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs.**	**From 16.00 Hrs. on 04.08.2023 to 21.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs.**
Bid Clarification	**From 11.00 Hrs. on 05.08.2023 to 22.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs.**	**From 11.00 Hrs. on 05.08.2023 to 22.08.2023 till 16.00 Hrs.**
Last date & time for reply to Bid Clarifications	**23.08.2023 up to 16.00 Hrs.**	**23.08.2023 up to 16.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**24.08.2023 up to 16.00 Hrs.**	**24.08.2023 up to 16.00 Hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	**25.08.2023 after 11.00 Hrs.**	**25.08.2023 after 11.00 Hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 74,800.00**	**Rs. 73,440.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Smt.RIA SABRENE FERNANDES,** wife of Srikant Venkatakrishnan, aged about 32 years & **Sri. SRIKANT VENKATAKRISHNAN,** son of Sri.Parameswaran Venkatakrishnan, aged about 34 years, both are residing at No.272, 4th Main, ST Bed Layout, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034, is intending to purchase the Schedule Properties mentioned below from its owners **Smt.C.Prameelamma,** wife of C.Seshaphani, aged about 62 years, rep. **by her G.P.A. holder Sri.C.Seshaphani,** son of Sri.C.Venkatasetty, R/at No.25/212, Sanjeevanagar, Nandyal, Nandyal District, Andhra Pradesh and **the Developer M/s S.S.INFRA, rep. by its Managing Partner Sri.L.Nagaraju.** Any person/s having any manner of right or title or interest or claim or objection or however otherwise, may file his/her their objections or claims in writing the below mentioned address with relevant documents within **7 days** from the date of this public notice, failing which my clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property treating that there is no claim over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.90,** Municipal **Katha No.4224/210/90,** in the layout known as **"SAI's SOWPARNIKA",** carved out of Converted **Sy.No.224** of Iggalur Village, situated at Iggalur Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, measuring **East to West 24.18 Meters and North to South 12.79 Meters,** totally measuring to an extent of **309.181 Square Meters or 3328 Square Feet** and bounded on:

East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Site No.91 and 92.

Item No.2 : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No.92, Municipal Katha No.4226/210/92,** in the layout known as **"SAI'S SOWPARNIKA",** carved out of Converted **Sy.No.224** of Iggalur Village, situated at Iggalur Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, measuring **East to West 13.195 Meters and North to South 15.315 Meters,** totally measuring to an extent of **202.08 Square Meters or 2175 Square Feet** and bounded on:

East by : Site No.91, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No.90, South by : Road.

Lokesha.G, Advocate,
No. 235, 8th Main, Byrasandra,
Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011

The curious case of rising lactose intolerance

Lactose intolerance produces symptoms which can be uncomfortable but is never dangerous, it is a specific digestive issue associated with the consumption of dairy products

C Maya

Having to rush to the toilet in the middle of a movie, with a tummy that is producing audible, rumbling sounds can be an embarrassing experience.

"Not to mention the endless ribbing from friends that you have to put up with," says Pramod, a marketing executive.

"A group of us friends had met up for dinner and a movie. It could have been the food or the desserts we indulged in, but I distinctly remember the gassy, bloated feeling, the stomach cramps and the mortifying rush in search of the washroom. Even a decade later, the story continues to be regurgitated, with spicier additions, every time we meet up ...and my "gluttony" has become legendary," he laughs.

Avoidance works

"But it was much later and after several similar episodes that I came to the conclusion that my gastric issues were being triggered by dairy products. Large amounts of dairy seemed to produce bad symptoms. I was not sure why my body was reacting differently to dairy products in adulthood, nor was I aware that lactose intolerance is something one can develop at any point in life. I have not been to a doctor and have not got any tests done because as long as I avoid or restrict milk products, I feel fine, " says Pramod.

While Pramod can laugh over how his digestive system reacted to milk, 56-year-old Jayamohan, a government employee, says he was not sure if his "sensitive stomach" and the frequent episodes of abdominal bloating, continuous belching, pain and occasional diarrhoea are symptoms of lactose intolerance or irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

"I was convinced that I was "allergic" to milk and milk products. But even after excluding milk products from my diet, I continued to go through these uncomfortable gastric episodes. Stress, lack of sleep or dietary changes and sometimes milk too triggered it. My doctor now tells me that my symptoms are more consistent with that of IBS and that lactose intolerance might be a part of it," he says.

Doctors do not consider lactose intolerance to be a disorder. They describe it as the digestive system's reaction to milk sugar (lactose) which it cannot digest. The body needs an enzyme called lactase which is produced by the cells lining the small intestine, to digest lactose. If one is deficient in lactase, the undigested lactose passes on to the colon, where it produces extra gas and water, resulting in bloating, cramps and diarrhoea. Lactose intolerance thus produces symptoms which can be uncomfortable, but it is never dangerous.

Extremely common

"Lactose intolerance is so common that except for the 1-2% people who might experience serious bloating and cramps and nausea immediately after consuming dairy, almost every adult has lactose intolerance in various degrees. The degree of intolerance depends on the amount of lactose their system can tolerate, that's all," says C. P. Lakshmi, senior consultant medical gastroenterologist, Gastro Care, Thiruvananthapuram.

As one ages, there is a normal decline in the amount of lactase that the small intestine produces. This is one of the reasons why lactose intolerance might seem to be creeping up on one during adulthood and beyond, leaving one wondering why she can no longer find joy in that milkshake like she used to before.

That said, lactose intolerance seems to be a very subjective term that people use to describe the general digestive issues or symptoms – acidity, burping, gassiness – they feel whenever they consume dairy products. Lactose intolerance is a specific digestive issue associated with the consumption of dairy products and ceases to be a problem when the person totally avoids or restricts milk products in the diet. But its symptoms can easily overlap with another common and chronic gastric disorders such as IBS, the pathogenesis of which is quite different.

The confusion – as in the case of Mr. Jayamohan – happens because for many people with IBS, dairy products are often one among the many triggers that produce gastric symptoms.

It is thus possible to have both lactose intolerance and IBS together, though each are distinct entities.

Varies by ethnicity

According to literature, estimates for lactose intolerance vary by ethnicity.

The prevalence rate is 75-95% in African American and Asian ethnicities while it is estimated to be 18-26% amongst Europeans.

Lactose intolerance does run in families and the symptoms can become evident during childhood or adolescence, even though in most cases, people seem to complain of lactose intolerance much later in adulthood.

> Lactose intolerance does run in families and symptoms can become evident during childhood or adolescence, though in most cases, people seem to complain of lactose intolerance much later in adulthood

"If you are lactose intolerant, you will develop symptoms within 30 minutes to two hours of consuming dairy products. After a couple of episodes, people generally observe and understand the pattern and come to the conclusion that dairy does not seem to agree with them. But a majority of those with lactose intolerance are still able to consume small amounts of milk products. It is when they go over their personal lactose threshold that they develop digestive symptoms," says Dr. Lakshmi.

Though there are specific tests like the hydrogen breath test to determine lactose intolerance, these tests do not have much use in clinical practice.

People are told to stay away from all dairy products for two weeks and then gradually re-introduce dairy into the diet to see how their body reacts.

Manoj (name changed), a medical oncologist in north Kerala, says that he has experienced lactose intolerance symptoms for the past five years, which he had put down to IBS.

"It took me a while to understand that it was just lactose intolerance and that it was the consumption of large amounts of dairy products that produced all the unpleasant digestive symptoms. I can still have my morning cuppa with milk, but nothing more. I seem to do well with home-made yoghurt and cheese also," he says.

"This is a condition that is generally self-diagnosed and self-managed. The usual tests for detecting lactose intolerance are not available here or are expensive but clinical diagnosis seems to suffice. The solution is as simple as avoiding or restricting dairy and people manage very well," Dr. Manoj says.

It is possible to develop secondary lactose intolerance all of a sudden following surgery or chemotherapy or if one has an infection, ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease which affects the small intestine. But this usually goes away once the small intestine regains health.

Intolerance distinct from allergy

Dr. Manoj says that while lactose intolerance is quite common among Asians – over 50% of the Indians are deficient in lactase – it is very easy to misdiagnose this condition, especially amongst the elderly.

"In the elderly, some malignancies like colon cancer can present themselves in the initial stages with atypical symptoms similar to that of the symptoms of lactose intolerance. We might end up running an entire battery of tests to rule out malignancies before concluding that it could be a case of lactose intolerance," he says.Doctors also caution that lactose intolerance is quite distinct from an allergy to milk.

Lactose intolerance is the digestive system's response to the milk sugar (lactose), whereas in the event of a milk allergy, the entire immune system will react against the milk protein. The reaction is often immediate and severe in the case of milk allergy, while lactose intolerance will never lead to any serious disease or long-term complications.

Can lactose intolerance lead to nutritional deficiencies? Dieticians say that while milk is an important source of nourishment for children, milk is never the primary source of nutrition for adults.

"For persons with lactose intolerance who love to consume milk, there are options such as plant-based milk (soy/almond milk) or lactose-free milk. There are plenty of other food sources – yoghurt, tofu, nuts, spinach, broccoli, orange, lentils and legumes – that a lactose-intolerant person can depend on for calcium supplementation. So you won't be missing much," says Lekshmi Manish, a nutritionist.

maya.c@thehindu.co.in

Breastfeeding Week: dated wisdom, lactation stigma still assail mothers

Christianez Ratna Kiruba

"Being a doctor, I thought I had good knowledge of lactation and breastfeeding already," Elsa John, an anaesthetist and a first-time mother in Vellore, told this author. "But nothing prepared me for the doubts that came in the initial days when I had to do it."

She recalled that a nurse pinched her nipples hard to produce milk. "They repeated this every time there was a shift change, over eight to 10 times," she recalled. "They also demonstrated, vaguely, a few ways I should hold my baby. None of the information was helpful."

Stigma around lactation

Exclusively breastfeeding a child for six months is the best way to ensure infants are nourished, according to the World Health Organisation. It is one of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals for health. But in India, there are many challenges to realising this goal - including an epidemic of shaming and misinformation directed at women.

"The first milk, the colostrum, is thought to be nutrient-rich and full of antibodies good for the child," Dr. John said. "But nobody ever tells you that it's just droplets of milk that may not even be visible in the first few days." When others said there was "no milk", she said she felt ashamed in an already difficult time.

"I was judged by my paediatrician when I learnt that I had flat nipples and sought help," S.J., a postgraduate resident in physiology in Vellore, said on condition of anonymity. "Nobody identified this problem in my antenatal period, but once I started having issues, my doctor scolded me for not working on it earlier in my pregnancy." She added that there is a "severe" lack of counselling options for pregnant women on neonatal care.

In India, "most women are guided by the older women in their families on what to expect during childbirth and how to care for their children," a public health researcher in rural Maharashtra said. "However, even those older women don't have a good scientific basis for [their] knowledge." She wished to remain unnamed.

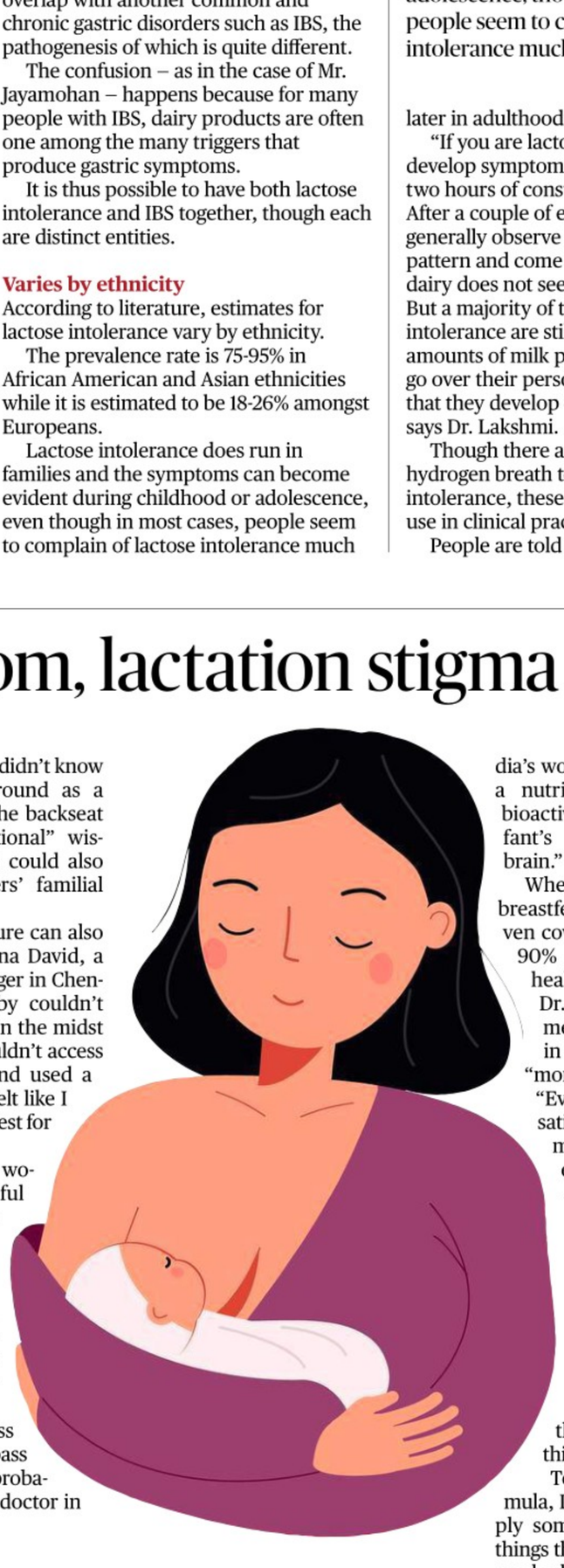
What is good enough?

In physiological terms, the milk letdown reflex causes a mother to lactate freely when stimulated by her baby's suckling and oxytocin, a hormone released "when the mother feels bonded to her child," Dr. S.J. said. The reflex isn't likely to be stimulated by pinching the nipples, however.

Some suggest natural supplements like galactogogues - plant-based substances that increase milk production. But no studies support their effectiveness.

The public health researcher said she was forced by her mother to feed her child some herbs she didn't know the use of; her background as a health researcher took the backseat to her mother's "traditional" wisdom. Adverse outcomes could also endanger young mothers' familial relationships.

Then again, the pressure can also come from within. Helena David, a product marketing manager in Chennai, found that her baby couldn't latch, after her delivery in the midst of the pandemic. She couldn't access a lactation counsellor and used a pump to breastfeed. "It felt like I was not doing what was best for my child," she said.



Under such pressure, women often develop painful cracked nipples and even infection of their breasts, in addition to other problems with inadequate feeding, such as the baby being underweight or having weak immunity, and postpartum depression.

"If your child can pass stools, gain weight, and pass urine regularly, you are probably making enough," the doctor in Maharashtra said.

Alternative options

A 2018 survey found that almost 70% of mothers have problems with breastfeeding - but "unfortunately there aren't many nutritious alternatives to breast milk," said Hemant Joshi, a pediatrician in Mumbai who helped bring about the law specifying six months' maternity leave for India's working women. "Breastmilk is a nutrition-dense substance with bioactive agents that develop an infant's gut, immunity as well as brain."

When a woman can't adequately breastfeed, however, the child is given cow's milk, "which tends to be 90% water and sorely lacking in health promoting substances," Dr. Joshi added. He advises women with the means to "invest in formula feeds," which are "more nutritious" than cow milk.

"Even the World Health Organisation recommends that cow's milk or goat's milk should never be given to infants," he added.

Formula "can also be used when a mother has ... any painful condition of the breast as a bridge until the mother heals," Dr. John said. Ms. David said she wishes she had known this when she was struggling with breastfeeding - a sentiment that many women repeated to this writer.

To those who can't afford formula, Dr. Joshi suggests mothers apply some "semisolid purees of the things that women eat everyday," like mashed rice or upma, around the child's mouth. "As soon as the baby realises, he/she will use their tongue to lick it up."

Human breast milk banks - of which there are some 90 around India - offer another alternative.

Struggles are the rule

The need of the hour is lactation counselling for young mothers and their families. Such a counsellor teaches mothers scientifically validated ways to initiate and maintain milk ejection, and other techniques, such as appropriate ways to hold a child while breastfeeding. Studies have found that lactation counselling before and after birth can improve the likelihood of successful breastfeeding.

But if, after all this, a woman is unable to establish a good breastfeeding practice with her child, her family and her immediate social circle must be aware that struggles during breastfeeding are not the exception but the rule. The mother needs to have an environment that prioritises her mental well-being, and helps her seek help when needed and access legitimate alternative feeding options free of guilt, shame, and judgement.

(Dr. Christianez Ratna Kiruba is an internal medicine doctor with a passion for patient rights advocacy.)

christianezdennis@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

FRIDAY
August 4, 2023

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J BG-BGE

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, AUG. 04		
RISE	06:06	SET 18:46
RISE	21:12	SET 08:31
SATURDAY, AUG. 05		
RISE	06:06	SET 18:45
RISE	21:55	SET 09:29
SUNDAY, AUG. 06		
RISE	06:06	SET 18:45
RISE	22:36	SET 10:23

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	31	22
Bengaluru	28	19

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Rise in temperature. A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail

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THE HINDU
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Family of four, including two children, found dead in Kadugodi flat

Man suspected to have killed his wife, two daughters, and ended life. The state of decomposed bodies also indicates they were dead at least two or three days ago, says a senior police official

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vijay, Hemavathi and one of their two children. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A family of four, including two children, was found dead at their flat in Kadugodi on Thursday morning. Their bodies were found in a highly decomposed state. The man is suspected to have killed his wife and two daughters and later ended his life.

The deceased have been identified as Veerarjuna Vijay, 31, his wife Hemavathi, 29, and their two children, Moksha Meghanayana, 2, and Shrushti Sunayana, 8 months old. The family hails from Andhra Pradesh and was based out of the city for many years now. Vijay married Hemavathi six years ago and was working as a team lead in a software firm in Kundalahalli, and the family lived in a ground-floor flat of Sai Garden Apartment in Seegehalli.

Both Vijay and Hemavathy's mobile phones have been switched off since Tuesday, which raised suspicions in Vijay's Hyderabad-based younger brother Shesha Sai. As he failed to get any response for two days, he flew down to the city on Thursday morning. As he rushed to the flat, he found no response from inside the flat which was locked from within. He found lights on in the bedroom and the adjoining bathroom, prompting him to open the bedroom window, to only find the highly decomposed bodies of the entire family. He and his neighbours alerted the police, who broke open the door and recovered the bodies.

A senior police official with the Kadugodi Police said, "Prima facie, we suspect Vijay strangled his wife and two daughters and later ended his life. But since the bodies are heavily decomposed, only an autopsy can ascertain the exact cause of death. We have sent the bodies for an autopsy and the viscera to the Forensic Science Laboratory," the official said.

However, based on other technical evidence from the scene, police have concluded that the incident happened after midnight on July 31.

The state of decomposed bodies also indicates they were dead at least two or three days ago, a senior official said.

A senior police official said the family had not left behind any death note or message, which along with the way the bodies were found, has prompted the police to suspect Vijay may have killed his family in a fit of rage and ended his life later.

The reason as to what led to this tragedy is yet to be ascertained, police sources say that the couple had a marital dispute and that may have boiled over ending in the tragedy.

(Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya sahayavani ph. 104 for help)

Man bites off wife's finger over domestic row in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have set a manhunt for a private firm employee who allegedly bit off the finger of his wife and chewed it in rage over a domestic row in Konanakunte on Friday.

According to the police, the accused Vijay Kumar married Pushpa, 23 years ago, and the couple have a son.

The husband Vijay Kumar used to harass her frequently following which Pushpa would go to her parents' house.

Vijay Kumar would ask her to come back but she would refuse.

Assaulted
On Friday, Vijay Kumar went to his in-laws' house, and asked her to return, but Pushpa refused.

Enraged by this, Vijay Kumar assaulted her and bit off her finger, and chewed it in rage stating that she will have the same fate if she did not return.

Family members rushed to her aid after she howled for help and took her to the hospital where he is being treated.

Flees the spot
The accused soon fled the scene threatening her with dire consequences.

Based on the medico legal case, the police have registered a case against Vijay Kumar charging him under domestic violence, assault and criminal intimidation.

INBRIEF

Golden jubilee celebration of tax Practitioners' Association

A three-day event to commemorate the Golden Jubilee, organised by the Karnataka State Tax Practitioners' Association (KSTPA) in collaboration with All India Federation of Tax Practitioners will be held from Friday.

During the three-day event, the Association is organizing a National Tax Conference and Tax Practitioner Day and will launch the Karnataka Women's Wing on Saturday. Over 1,000 delegates across the State are expected to participate, said KSTPA in a release. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister for Revenue, Krishna Byregowda, will be the Chief Guest and guest of honour respectively on the inaugural day. The venue for the three-day programme is: Palace Grounds, Gate No. 9, Princes Green.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated August 4, we have a story on writer and historian Dr. Chithra Madhavan, who talks about why we must instil a sense of heritage in children.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (August 4, Friday), the following articles are available:

- Coups in Niger; causes and concerns **bit.ly/coupsinniger**
- The curious case of rising lactose intolerance **bit.ly/lactosecase**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Raid on 45 BBMP offices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major crack down, Lokayukta officials on Thursday, conducted surprise checks on 45 offices of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike simultaneously, to check irregularities. As many as 13 Judicial Officers, 7 Superintendents of Police, 19 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 26 Police Inspectors, other Police Personnel and staff were deployed for inspection. Lokayukta and Upalokayukta were also part of the raid, personally making surprise visits to some of the offices and monitoring raids and checks. Efforts are on to unearth all illegalities and irregularities in the light of allegations of corruption, favouritism, nepotism and other instances of maladministration. a senior police officer said.

Three killed as water tank collapses on them

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A pushcart vendor and his customer were among three persons killed when a water tank from a four-storey building collapsed on them, near Shivajinagar bus stand in Bengaluru, on Wednesday night.

One of the deceased is Arul, a 40-year-old pushcart vendor. The others are Kota Nagaeshwar Rao, 32, and Karan Thapa, 32. The incident occurred around 10.30 p.m. A few people were standing around the pushcart on the footpath adjacent to a building. The water tank on the building, along with a part of the parapet wall, collapsed. Three were buried in the rubble. Passers-by and police shifted the victims to Bowring hospital where doctors declared two persons dead. The third person was injured and was in the ICU. He succumbed to his injuries later in the day.

The police, along with BBMP officials, visited the spot. The police have initiated a probe against the owner of the building who has been charged for death due to negligence.

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Man force-feeds pesticide to two minor girls at Devanahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Panic gripped the villagers of Doddasanne in Devanahalli after an unidentified man allegedly force-fed pesticides to two minor girls.

The accused barged into the house of Kumar, forced a 13-year-old, 8th-grade student to drink a pesticide, and fled the scene, leaving the girl writhing in pain on Tuesday. The girl was at home with her seven-year-old sister while their parents had gone to the farm. The incident came to light when the parents returned home and found the girl frothing and writhing in pain. She was rushed to a private hospital where she is being treated in the ICU .

The Devanahalli police registered a case against the unknown person charging him under section 328 (causing hurt by means of poison). On Thursday, the accused again allegedly forced the victim's 15-year-old cousin to drink a pesticide at knife-point while she was on her way to visit her parents, who were working on the farm, just a few yards away from their home.

The accused reportedly warned her to inform her uncle (the father of the first victim) to withdraw the complaint and threatened her with dire consequences. The second victim was rushed to a private hospital for treatment.

Based on the complaint, the Devanahalli police on Thursday visited the spot along with the dog squad to conduct a detailed probe.

The investigation is on to identify the accused, a police officer said. The parent of the first victim told the police that he did not have any enmity with anyone and the family is baffled about the repeated attacks. The police stepped up vigil in the area while the villagers also decided to patrol along with the police to help the police to trace the accused.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Vacant posts in Indian Administrative Service: Government

1,365 703 in the Indian Police Service (IPS), 1,042 vacancies exist in the Indian Forest Service (IFS) and 301 in Indian Revenue Service (IRS), according to Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh. PTI

Additional troops enlisted by Russia in 2023

2.3 in lakh. Vladimir Putin had announced a "partial" military mobilisation - first since World War II - following which thousands of men were drafted into the army. Moscow has conducted a military recruitment campaign AFP

Number of govt. websites that faced hacking incidents

36 According to data shared by Minister of State for Electronics and IT , a total of 1,12,474 cyber security incidents have been tracked by CERT-In. Over 4.29 lakh incidents pertaining to financial institutions occurred in 2023. PTI

Quantum of fall in deforestation of Brazil's Amazon

66 In percentage. Preliminary government figures show deforestation in Amazon has fallen to its lowest level . Satellite data from Brazilian space research agency INPE indicated that 500 square km of rainforest were cleared in the month. REUTERS

Number of entities recognised as startups by government

98,119 As on April 30, ₹ 611.36 crore has been approved for 160 incubators by the Experts Advisory Committeeunder e-Startup India Seed Fund Scheme. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Coups in Niger; causes and concerns

Why did Niger's military stage a coup to oust President Bazoum? How has the world responded? What are the external interests at stake in Niger? Why is the regional response divided? What's behind the rising anti-French sentiments and pro-Russian slogans in Niger? Why does Niger have a history of multiple coups?

EXPLAINER

Anu Maria Joseph

The story so far:

On July 26, Niger's military staged a coup, ousting President Mohamed Bazoum. The head of Niger's presidential guard, Abdourahmane Tchiani proclaimed himself as the head of the transitional government. The military's spokesperson announced that it has decided to "put an end to the regime due to the deteriorating security situation and bad governance." The constitution is dismissed, all institutions suspended, and the national borders closed.

How has the military justified the ousting of President Bazoum?

The military has blamed worsening insecurity and economic crisis for ousting the President. Despite the presence of the U.S. and French troops, Niger was unable to address the insurgency situation that was worsening. Groups linked to al-Qaeda, the Islamic State and Boko Haram operate in the south-west near Malian and southeast near the Nigerian borders. According to the Global Terrorism Index 2023, 198 people died in insurgent attacks in 2022, with Niger holding the sixth-highest civilian death toll. Niger also was facing inflation, corruption and food insecurity. Mr. Bazoum came to power in 2021 through Niger's first democratic elections, promising to address all the issues.

What has been the global response?

The UN, the U.S., Germany and France have condemned the coup. The UN has suspended humanitarian operations in Niger, while the EU has halted all security cooperation. The U.S. has announced "unflagging support" for Mr. Bazoum calling for his immediate release. France called for an immediate reinstation of "constitutional order and democratically elected civilian government." Following

Supporters of Niger's ruling junta gather at a protest called to fight for the freedom on Thursday. AP

an attack on the French embassy in Niger, Emmanuel Macron said that any attacks on France's interests in Niger would not be tolerated and France would take swift and uncompromising action.

What are the external interests in Niger?

While insurgency in Mali and Burkina Faso led to military coups, Niger managed a democratic transfer of power in 2021, an odd one in the region. This had kept smooth relations with the West. Niger has been a key partner in Washington's fight against insurgency; nearly 1,100 U.S. troops are here. According to the Relief Web report more than 4.4 million people are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance in the country. France and ousted President Bazoum had a closer economic and security partnership. Nearly 1,500 French troops were fighting insurgency in Niger. The country, which is rich in Uranium produces seven per cent of global supplies and has been exporting a quarter of it to France. According to Euratom, Niger supplies 25.4 per cent of Uranium to the EU countries. The coup has raised a new uncertainty over Niger's Uranium export.

Russia has also urged all sides to show restraint and restore calm while calling for Mr. Bazoum's release.

Why is the regional response divided?

The region is divided between the ECOWAS and Niger's immediate neighbours of Mali and Burkina Faso. The African Union Peace and Security Council said that it was concerned by the "alarming resurgence of coups" and called on the military to re-establish constitutional authority within a maximum of 15 days and return of the soldiers immediately to their barracks. Leaders from ECOWAS, the bloc of west African countries commented "zero tolerance" for coups.

They also announced the imposition of financial sanctions against the junta and the immediate installation of a no-fly zone over Niger for all commercial flights.

Mali and Burkina Faso have announced solidarity with the coup makers. Guinea's President Mamady Doumbouya has expressed discontent with the sanctions imposed and the threatening use of force by ECOWAS.

How to explain the anti-French sentiments rising in Niger?

Following the coup, thousands took part in protests in the capital Niamey, with some waving Russian flags chanting "Long live Russia", "Long live Putin" and "Down with France." Anti-French sentiments in Niger have been going on since mid-2022. It followed when Mr. Bazoum's government approved the re-deployment of France's Barkhane force to Niger after withdrawing from Niger.

In Mali and Burkina Faso, after relations between military governments and the West fallout, Russia was seen as the immediate alternative. The raising pro-Russian slogans would mean Niger seeking a similar trajectory to Mali and Burkina Faso. Unlike the West, which stresses upon democratic norms, Russia's security partnership without conditions is preferable for the west African military governments.

Why are there several coups in Niger?

Since independence in 1960, Niger experienced four coups and several attempted coups. The latest attempt was in 2021 when a military group tried to take over the presidential palace days before Mr. Bazoum who had been elected, was due to be sworn in. There have been five military coups in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea since 2020.

All the coups were attributed to frustrations on incompetent authorities' failure to stem insecurity in the Sahel region and the economic and humanitarian crisis that followed. The coups are also against alleged ties of unpopular authorities and corrupt elites with Western partners.

For the military, crisis and popular discontent is an advantage to capturing power. The military often succeeds in popular pro-coup discourse through the deceptive conception that only a harsh military crackdown can address the insecurity issue.

(The author is a Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)

THE GIST

- Niger's military ousted President Bazoum, attributing it to the deteriorating security situation and bad governance, including corruption, inflation, and food insecurity.
- The global response to the coup has been largely negative, with condemnations and suspensions of cooperation from the UN, U.S., EU, and France.
- External interests in Niger include France's security and economic partnership, particularly in uranium trade, and the U.S.' fight against insurgency with a significant military presence.

Why is the Biological Diversity Bill facing opposition?

How does the Act's implementation raise concerns about the proposed amendments? What are the industry's views on the Biological Diversity Act? What are the priorities of India's Environment Ministry?

Rishika Pardikar

The story so far:

On 1st August, the Rajya Sabha passed the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 amid a walk-out by the opposition parties, about a week after it was cleared by the Lok Sabha. The Act aims to conserve biodiversity, promote its sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits that arise therein. Amendments proposed in the Bill however are at odds with this aim. During discussions in Rajya Sabha, the Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, explicitly spoke of "ease of doing business" and promotion of the AYUSH industry (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) as reasons why the government is bringing forth the amendments.

Why is the Bill considered problematic?

The Bill exempts "codified traditional knowledge" and the AYUSH industry from benefit sharing, denying local communities benefits from accessing biological resources. The term "codified traditional knowledge" lacks a clear definition, leading to potential exploitation. Experts regard this exemption as regressive because a reason why the legislation was enacted in the first place was to ensure "fair and equitable sharing of benefits. It decriminalises offences and proposes monetary penalties instead, raising concerns over resource exploitation.

To what extent has the Act been implemented?

It is important to bear in mind that the proposed relaxations come at a time when the Act hasn't even been implemented in full. A 2022 investigation by the Centre for Science and Environment showed that in many States, there was no data available on money received from companies and traders for access and benefit sharing and in cases where money was collected, the same wasn't shared with local communities. A 2016 study by legal researchers also showed that many difficulties have cropped up in many States when it comes to implementing provisions of the Act, especially those related to access and benefit sharing. Some of these issues were also challenged in high courts and the National Green Tribunal.

How does the industry view the Act?

The industry has been unhappy with the regulations and has run to courts and sought relaxation. Consider the 2016 case where the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board sent a notice to Divya Pharmacy, part of Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Yog Peeth Trust, stating that the company was in violation of the Act for using biological resources without prior intimation to the Board. The company challenged the notice in the Uttarakhand high court, although it ultimately lost the case. In 2015, representatives from Gujarat's Ayurveda industry urged the central government to provide some relief to the sector by postponing the implementation of access and benefit sharing provisions. In response, the then Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said the industry has to deposit an amount towards these provisions and that no exemption can be granted. These are the precedents to the amendments which have been proposed now for "ease of doing business."

In the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' section, the Bill clearly states that "concerns were raised by the stakeholders representing Indian system of medicine sector, seed sector, industry sector and research sector urging to simplify, streamline and reduce compliance burden in order to encourage a conducive environment for collaborative research and investments, simplify patent application process...". On 2nd August, the Rajya Sabha also cleared the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill which limits the conservation scope of the Act. The two Bills are part of a trend of dilution of environmental regulations that are underway.

The fact that the Environment Ministry has given precedence to "ease of doing business" rather than its mandate to protect the environment is a cause for concern.

(Rishika Pardikar is a freelance environment reporter based in Bangalore)

THE GIST

- The proposed amendments to the Biological Diversity Act exempt users of "codified traditional knowledge" and the AYUSH industry from benefit sharing provisions, which experts consider regressive and contradict the original aim of the legislation.
- The Bill also decriminalises offences under the Act and proposes monetary penalties, raising concerns about potential exploitation of biological resources without accountability.

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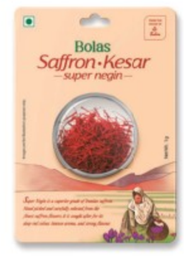

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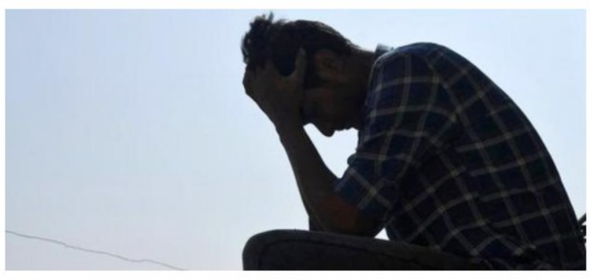
J BG-BGE

'Modern antidepressants can reduce risk of depressive relapse for bipolar patients'

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A new international study led by researchers from University of British Columbia (UBC) and NIMHANS has found that treatment with modern antidepressants can help prevent patients with Bipolar I disorder from relapsing into a depressive episode.

"The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Thursday, challenge current clinical practice guidelines, and could change how bipolar depression is managed globally," said Y.C. Janardhan Reddy, head of the Department of Psychiatry and OCD Clinic at NIMHANS.



While there is effective medication to treat and prevent acute mania, treatment and prevention of bipolar type of depression have been challenging, despite the advent of many medications recently, say experts. FILE PHOTO

Bipolar disorder

Bipolar disorder, earlier known as manic-depressive disorder, is prevalent in about 1% of the population, and tends to be a lifelong illness. Bipolar disorder has two phases – depression and mania. "Patients can sometimes develop mania, and other times depression, in a cyclical fashion," said Professor Reddy, who is the principal investigator of the study in India.

Professor Lakshmi Yatham from the UBC, who is a visiting professor at NIMHANS, is the global principal investigator of the study that has been supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

"Antidepressants are effective in treating depression and in preventing relapse of depression in 'recurrent depressive disorder', often called 'unipolar depression'. However, depression also occurs in the context of bipolar disorder. While there is effective medication to treat and prevent acute mania, treatment and prevention of bipolar type of depression have been challenging, despite the advent of many medications recently," Professor Reddy told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

"Guidelines recommend discontinuation of antidepressant treatment eight weeks after remission of depression. However, results of this first global randomised clinical trial conducted at sites in Canada, India, and Korea involving 178 patients with bipolar disorder, demonstrate that extending adjunctive antidepressants up to 52 weeks may be beneficial in preventing relapse into depression compared to discontinuation after eight weeks of remission. A majority of the participants in this study were from India, mainly from NIMHANS," he said.

Suicide risk

Stating that bipolar depression can be severe and is often associated with high suicide risk, Dr. Reddy said previous studies have shown that suicide attempts and suicide deaths are at least 18 times more common during depressive episodes compared to during manic episodes.

"There is a concern that antidepressants used to treat unipolar depression and other forms of depression may not only be ineffective in treating depression of the bipolar type but may even worsen the course of illness by precipitating mania. Nonetheless, globally and in India, bipolar depression is often treated with adjunctive antidepressants (anti-manic medications and antidepressants), but the duration of this therapy is widely debated due to a lack of evidence and concerns that antidepressants may induce mania," he explained. "Our study found that continuation of antidepressant for 52 weeks, compared to eight weeks, was not statistically significant in preventing any mood episode (mania or depression). However, a fine-grained analysis of data from six-week post-randomisation (till then both groups received an antidepressant) showed a significant benefit in continuing adjunctive antidepressant for 52 weeks in preventing relapse of any mood episode as well as a depressive episode. No difference was observed in the number of manic episodes," he said.

"Stabilising patients and preventing relapses, particularly depressive relapses is critical. Our study has demonstrated that modern antidepressants may have a potential role in doing so," said Dr. Reddy.

Vocal concert by Ranjani Vasuki on Sunday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Gayana Samaja will present a Carnatic classical concert by Ranjani Vasuki on Sunday.

She will be accompanied by Venkatesh Josyer on violin, S. Ashoka on mrudanga and Kiran Kumar B.J. on Khanjira.

Entry to the concert is free.

It will be held in the Gayana Samaja premises on K.R. Road, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
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5, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.
Roc.No.2994 /A&A/2023 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 2.8.2023

Applications are invited from potential manufacturers/distributors for procurement of assistive devices for PWDs through e-procurement portal for the financial year 2023-2024. It is informed to get the complete details on the website of the department **www.scd.tn.gov.in** and apply.

Participating contractors shall submit the sample of the material quoted for, on the day of submission of bid application.

Tender applications are requested to be uploaded through e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Director for welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

The rates finalized through this tender is also applicable to the supplies under Government and other schemes.

DIPR/ 4289 /TENDER/2023 **Director for Welfare of the Differently Abled**

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Mobile No: 9415609014 Website: www.upneda.org.in E-Mail: ho_rps@rediffmail.com

Short Term Tender Notice

UPNEDA invites Online Bids from Prospective Bidders through GeM Portal for **Design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning with 5 years comprehensive warranty and maintenance of LED based Solar High Mast Lighting System at various districts/sites in the State of Uttar Pradesh as per the details given in Bid Document.**

S. No	Name of Work	Tentative Quantity (Nos)	Estimated Cost excluding GST (Rs)
1	Design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning with 5 years comprehensive warranty and maintenance of solar High Mast Lighting System with Lithium ferro phosphate (Li-Fe-Po4) Battery at various districts/sites in the State of Uttar Pradesh. GeM Bid No: GEM/2023/B/3779646 dated 03.08.2023	**1500 Nos** The tentative capacity mentioned above which may vary. Depending upon the demands to be received from various sources.	**Rs 16.50 Crores**

The work completion time for all the above work is 4 (four) month. The Bid document is available at GeM Portal from 03.08.2023. Interested bidders may view, download the Bid document, seek clarification and submit their Bid through GeM Portal upto the date and time mentioned in the table below:

(a)	Availability of tender document on GeM Portal	From : 03.08.2023
(b)	Bid submission end date & Time	On: 14.08.2023 upto 6:00 pm
(c)	Online technical Bid Opening date & time	On: 14.08.2023 at 6:30 pm
(d)	Financial Bid Opening date & time (Only of technically qualified bidders)	Shall be intimated later
(e)	Venue of opening of technical & financial Bids	UPNEDA Head Office, Vibhuti Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010

Quantity mentioned as above, may increase or decrease. Director, Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, (UPNEDA) reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of Director UPNEDA will be final and binding.
Director, UPNEDA
हमारा प्रण ऊर्जा संरक्षण

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"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.: CCE, KIP-(KCD-I) -04 / 2023-24
(Pertaining to Kanpur Canal Division-I, Jhumpura)

1	Name of the Work	"Excavation of off-taking channels and it's system within RD9190m to RD12300m of Kanupur Main Canal including construction of structures of Kanupur Irrigation project." (BALANCE WORK)
2	Estimated Cost	Rs.1499.27 Lakh
3	Period of Completion	11 (Eleven) Calendar Months including rainy season
4	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	Dt.09.08.2023 from 10.00 Hours to Dt.23.08.2023 up to 17.00 Hours.
5	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	23.08.2023 up to 17.00 Hours
6	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	24.08.2023 at 11.00 Hours
7	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er. Prasanna Kumar Pani, Chief Construction Engineer, Kanupur Irrigation Project, At/PO:Basudevpur, Dist- Keonjhar, Odisha-758047

Further details can be seen from e-Procurement portal **"https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in."**
(Er.Prasanna Kumar Pani)
Chief Construction Engineer,
Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar, Odisha
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Date : 03.08.2023
Sd/- Mathew Joseph

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E-TENDER NOTICE No. SA-SG-120-I-OT-16-2023
Dated: 31.07.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Southern Railway / Salem Division, Salem - 636005 invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** and only online tenders will be accepted. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC), in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal):

Sl. No.1; Tender Notice No.: **SA-SG-120-I-OT-16-2023; Name of the Work:** Salem Division: Provision of SSBPAC in length block section of PALM-EDU in salem Division and VRLA battery sets in SSE/ Tele/KRR Section;

Approximate Cost of the Work: ₹ **81,41,018.28;** Earnest Money Deposit : ₹ **1,62,800.00;** Cost of tender form including GST ₹ : **Nil;** Eligibility criteria for similar single work previously Executed: **Applicable;** Period of Completion in months: **4 months;** Tender closing date and time: **22.08.2023 at 15.00 Hrs.;**

Note: Details of approximate value of tender, tender form cost, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, **"www.ireps.gov.in"**

For other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the Tender documents which are available at **"www.ireps.gov.in"** website

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore
Tender Notice No. E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-3-2023-24 Dated: 01.08.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai - 600008 invites E-Tender for the following Work.

Name of the Work: Chinna Salem - Kallakurichi New Line Work - Electrification of station buildings, Platforms, LC gate lodges, S&T Huts, Pumping arrangements, Electrification of Camp Office, Railway Staff Quarters etc., in Chinna Salem to Kallakurichi section including power supply arrangements.

1. Period of Completion: **6 Months; 2.** Approximate Cost of Work : ₹ **1,18,12,621.10/- 3.** Cost of Tender Form: **Nil**; **4.** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) : ₹ **2,09,100/-; 5.** Tender Closing Date & Time : **24.08.2023 at 11.00 AM; 6. Tender Opening Date & Time: 24.08.2023 at 11.30 AM.** Complete details can be seen on **www.ireps.gov.in**

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KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD
No.16, 2nd Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001
PH: 080-22867369, E-mail: cgmksamb@gmail.com
Tender No: KSAMB/PROC-FD/2782/Tender/AUCTION2/2023-24 Dated:03.08.2023

e-TENDER CUM e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board, Bengaluru is inviting e-bidding through e-procurement portal from Nationalized Banks for placing of **Rs.35.00 Crores** (Rupees Thirty Five Crores Only) for One year in Fixed Deposit. The detailed information can be obtained from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal vide Indent **No:APMC/2023-24/AUCTION2**. The last date for participation is **09.08.2023.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager
K.S.A.M.B., Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/767/SHIRDI SAI/2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client negotiating to purchase the portion of the property described in the Schedule herein from 1. Sri. K.V. Prasad S/o. late K.R. Venkatesulu 2. Smt. K. Shashikala Prasad 3. Smt. K. Shalini Prasad and 4. Sri. K.P. Prithvi, who claims to be the owners of the Schedule Property.ALL persons including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, financial institution(s), non- banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of said Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, succession, possession, lease, tenancy, maintenance easement, license, bequeath, share, assignment, lien, attachment, development rights, right of way, lispendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption, development rights, or any liability or commitment or otherwise or demand of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at LEXSITUS, No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor, 27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1, Bangalore – 560102 or call to: 080-22583563, 080-25723339 or Email: info@lexsitus.com within a period of 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE land bearing Sy.No.113 (Old Sy.No.49/6) measuring 8093.71 Square Meter (2 Acres), Converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No.B.Dis.ALN.SR(S)399/1982-83, dated:03.06.1983, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, situated at Mulluru Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, and bounded on the;

East by : Land bearing Sy.No's.91 and 92;
West by : Land bearing Sy.No.114 (Old No.49);
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.49 and old No.49/5;
South by : Sarjapura Main Road.

ROOPA SHETTY, Advocate
Lex Situs, No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor,
27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1, Bangalore - 560102.
Phone: 080-22583563, 9902026199; Email:info@lexsitus.com

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
ELECTRICAL (TRD) BRANCH, TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli - 620001 invites online E-tenders from prospective tenderers / bidders for the following work.

1	Tender Number	TPJ - TRD - 2023 - 2024 - 011
2	Name of work	TPJ Division - Provision of Power Quality Restorer for AC Traction System at Traction Substation at VM, VRI, TNI and ARV
3	Approximate value of tender	₹ 17,36,00,000.00/-
4	Cost of tender booklet	Nil
5	Bid Security	₹ 10,18,000/-
6	Date & Time of Bidding	14.08.2023 to 15:00 Hours on 28.08.2023
7	Date & Time of Tender Opening	After 15:00 Hours on 28.08.2023
8	Period of completion	Twenty Four Months
9	Period of validity of offer	81 days from the date of tender opening

NOTE:
1. The prospective tenderers / bidders are requested to register themselves with IREPS (Indian Railway Electronic Procurement System), if not done already, for participating in E-Tenders, Registration form is available on IREPS site (Quick link New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender).
2. Contractors / Bidders are requested to procure Digital Signing Certificate (DSC) Class III or appropriate from Govt. of India, authorized Certifying authority (CCA-Controller of Certifying Authority) for participating in E-Tender & to log into IREPS.
3. Payment of Bid Security in respect of e-tendering, should be done through net banking or payment gateway only (online payment) or in the form of BG as per GCC 2022. Tenders received without Bid Security shall be rejected.
4. Kindly log on to **https://www.ireps.gov.in** for complete details, terms and conditions of the above tender and details of bid submission and the online bids are required to be digitally signed. The tenderers are advised to refer to the documents uploaded.
5. All addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, clarifications, etc. will be uploaded on or before **14.08.2023,** in the website only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regulary visit website to keep themselves updated.
6. Tenderers need not be present in the office for tender opening as they can watch the status of opened tenders, online through IREPS.

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Ajmer Smart City Ltd., Ajmer
Opposite RRTI, Near High Security Jail, Jaipur Road, Ajmer (Raj.) PIN-305023
E-mail: asclajmercity@gmail.com, Tel: 0145-2970922
No. :- ASCL/NIT-97/2023-24/6036-37 Date :- 27/07/2023
Notice Inviting Bid

ids for the following work are invited from interested bidders up to 3:00 PM – 21.08.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Project Management Consultancy for Ajmer Smart City Limited Rs. 3.83 Crore. UBN - ASM2324SLOB00002
Raj.Samwad/C/23/6805 **Additional Chief Engineer**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)
(Ref:NIELIT-CLT/2023/EELTP)

Applications invited from Training Institutes for conducting NSQF aligned skill development courses in the area of Electronics and IT, under EELTP, MeitY, GoI sponsored project, in Kerala (Palakkad) and Karnataka (Bangalore, Bellary, Belgaum, Mysore, Raichur). **Last Date 16.08.2023**
https://nielit.gov.in/calicut/sites/default/files/tenders/EoIEELTP.pdf

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (NIELIT) CALICUT
(An Autonomous Scientific Society of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India)
P.B.No.5, NIT CAMPUS P O, CALICUT, KERALA - 673601
PH : (0495) 2287266 / +91 9400224443
Website : www.nielit.gov.in/calicut/index.php

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai Division
E-TENDER NOTICE No. M-SG.2023-24-358 Dated: 31.07.2023

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Chennai Division / Chennai - 600 003 acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender for the following works:

E-Tender No. & Date	Closing Date	Name of work	Approx. Cash value (₹)	Period of Completion
M-SG-2023-24-358 Dated: 31.07.2023	22.08.2023	Annual Repair Contract for defective modules of Audio Frequency Track Circuit (AFTC) of M/s Siemens make in Chennai division for a period of two years	57.25 Lakh	24 Months

The complete details of the tender can be downloaded from the e-tender portal **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

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Government of Karnataka
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, BANGALIRE RURAL DISTRICT.
Beerasandra Village, Kundan Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk-562110, Email-deo.bangalore3@gmail.com
No. MSC/QL/CR/02/2023-24 Dated : 03.08.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Construction of Lift Scheme from Balancing Reservior to D.C-5 Near Madeshwara village Comprises of execution of Aqueduct, pump house, Pipeline, DC Chamber. Terminal and 220 KV substation and transmission line works which are passing through Alappanahalli, Bhaktarahalli, Adakavala of Doddabelavangala Hobli villages and Kangalapura, Sankarasanahalli , Chikkakalenahalli, Lingapura, Madeshwar in Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru rural District. M/S Shankarnarayana Construction Pvt. Ltd, 4th Floor, No.7. Residency Road, (Old no.-9, Raja Ram Mohan Ray Road) Bangalore has submitted a request to this office to issue No Objection Certificate to remove the stones found during the work on the village route through control blasting. In the Public interest, to issue NOC under Explosive Act, 1884 rules 2008 and Sub Rules 101, 102, 103 and 113 of the any other public or any person having any interest who may be adversely affected by this intention, can submit in writing to the office of District Magistrate, Bangalore Rural District, District Administration Bhavana, Beerasandra Village, Devanahalli taluk or to this office's e-mail address **deo.bangalorer3@gmail/com** within seven days if issue of this public notice i.e.befor **5:30pm 10.08.2023.**

DIPR/CP/766/SHIRDI SAI/2023-24
Sd/- Deputy Commissioner
Bangalore Rural District

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal)s

KPCL has invited bids in duplicate through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** e-procurement portal of GoK and the particulars are mentioned as follows: **(1)** No.: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT315 for **"Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 375HP Motor, 50HP & 2HP submersible pump for Dewatering Pit at Kadra Power House"**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 29,11,650/-.** EMD: **Rs. 58,233/-. (2)** No.: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT326 Date: 19.07.2023 for **"Modification, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Co2 Fire Protection System for Unit 1, 2 and 3 Generators at Kadra Power House"**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 42,76,674/-.** EMD: **Rs. 85,533/-.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (O&M), KADRA, KPCL, KADRA-581396, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka State. Telephone: 08382-256344, Mob: 9448793583. e-Mail ID: eek1kadrakpcl@gmail.com/ seekadrakpcl@yahoo.in**

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Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

REAL ESTATE

BSNL HOUSING Society premium residential & commercial sites near Blore Intl Airport on 6 Lane NH-207 Rs1100/-sft, open for general public. Call : 9071534000

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMBADAS father of Pawar Madhukar Ambadas village & Post: Nannaj, Taluk North Sholapur, District Sholapur, Maharashtra-413222 have changed my name from Ambadas to Ambadas Namdev Pawar and Corrected my Date of Birth from 01-07-1948 to 01-01-1948 vide Affidavit dt : 02-08-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, FIROZ Mahamad, S/o Abdul Hafeez.G.F., aged about 43 years, R/at No.42, 43, 44, 3rd Main, Phase 2, Amruth Nagar, Halanayakanahalli, Bengaluru - 560035 hereby declare that my names Feroz Mahamad, S/o Abdul Hafeez & Firoz Mahamad, S/o Abdul Hafeez.G.F.are belongs to myself only. In future i will be using my name as Firoz Mahamad, S/o Abdul Hafeez.G.F.vide affdidavit dtd 02.08.2023 sworn before B.Hanumantharaya, Bluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

TATA ELXSI LTD
Registered Office: ITPB Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnatka-560048

Notice is hereby given that the certificate(s) for the under mentioned securities of the company have been lost & the holder(s) of the said securities / applicant(s) has applied to the company to issue duplicate certificate(s).

Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered office within 15 days from this date, else the co. will proceed to issue duplicate certificate(s) without further intimation.

Name of the Holder(s)	Kind of Securities & face value	No. of Securities
Sudha Nanda	Equity Share of 10/-	100

Distinctive No.	Certificate No.	Folio No.
31272361-31272460	B240782	EXS0011128

Place: Gurugram (Hr.) (Sudha Nanda)
Date: 03.08.2023 Name(s) of holder(s) / Applicant(s)

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MD Azam Khan, R/o 5, Seelyammal Lane, Murugeshpalya, Bangalore, have changed my daughter's name from Aaira Khan to Epham Aaira Khan vide affidavit dated 02-08-2023 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

NOTICE REGARDING LOST CERTIFICATE (S) OF AMARA RAJA BATTERIES LIMITED
Address : Renigunta, Cuddapah Road, Karakambadi, Tirupati Andhra Pradesh, India PIN : 517520

I,Nagarjun Vallurupalli Son of Ramakrishna Rao Vallurupalli, aged about 54 years, residing at RD 78 Plot. 33, Bharani Enclave, Jubilee Hills, Shaikpet, Hyderabad, Telangana, India, 500033, **the registered holder (s) of the under mentioned shares held in the above said company, hereby give notice that the shares certificate(s) in respect of the said shares have been lost and I have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate certificates (s).Further, the said shares have been transferred to IEPF Authority, as the dividend amount remained Unpaid. Any person having any objection / claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claims with the Company at its above referred address within 15 days from this date, else the Company will endorse to the IEPF Authority for releasing the said shares from their demat a/c to my demat account, without insisting for production of the original share certificate(s).**

S. No.	Folio No.	Face Value	Certificate No.	Dist. No.	No.of Shares
1	43910	Rs.10/-	46185	3006201-3006300	100
2	43910	Rs.10/-	17511	4416601-4416700	100
3	43910	Rs. 2/-	1630-1631	44061451-44062450	1000
4	43910	Rs. 2/-	3697-3698	84519570-84520069	500

Date : 02-08-2023 **Nagarjun Vallurupalli**
Place : Hyderabad Sd/- NAME OF SHAREHOLDER

City Municipal Council Sagar-577401
Website: www.sagaracity.mrc.gov.in Ph.08183-226021
Email: ka.sagar.cmc@gmail.com
No.: AEE/H.D./Works/01/2023-24 Date: 31.07.2023
Tender Notice (Through E-Procurement)

Tenders are invited as per KW 4 Rules for Works of scientific disposal of Legacy Waste collected at Solid Waste Disposal Unit of Associations in City Municipal Council limits under Swachh Bharat and City Municipal Council Funds. Contractors having Contractor License of Eligible Class in PWD can quote their minimum rate and submit tender in e-portal along with the prescribed EMD. More information and conditions can be obtained in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 1) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting of Tender: 23.08.2023 at 11.30 AM. 2) Last date for submission of filled tender form: 30.08.2023 up to 5.00 PM 3) Date of opening the technical bid: 02.09.2023 at 11.00 AM. 4) Date of opening the financial bid: 04.09.2023 at 11.00 AM. If it is not possible to open the Tender on the said date, it will be opened on the next working day of the office.

Sl.No.1. Indent No.: DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT 236-CALL-2 **Approx. Amount Rs. In lakhs:** 244.58

Conditions: 1. If there are any Corrections and changes in the tender they will be published in e-procurement portal. **2**. G.S.T. will be paid as per Govt. Rules.**3**. Further details can be obtained in City Municipal Council website http://sagaracity.mrc.gov.in and from the Health Division during office hours.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Sagar
DIPR/smg/No.125/08/ksmca/23-24/275

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Ghostly mansions to spooky ships: exploring the haunted settings in films

Evil houses or those with supernatural squatters are a horror movie staple through the ages. From *Amityville* to *Bhargavi Nilayam*, these brick-and-mortar structures address our subliminal dread of the breach of our safe spaces

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

There are vengeful ghouls, demented witches and cannibalistic serial killers aplenty in the reel and real world out there. The forests and bars seem to be practically teeming with creatures and creations out to harm you in the most gorily gruesome ways possible. So then common sense would dictate you stay home. Fortify your castle against all malign influences and chill with a cosmopolitan and Carrie till kingdom come.

How many times have we seen characters run from evil beings, barricade themselves at home or distinctly sinister cabins in the woods only to realise to their horror (and our unbridled delight) that they have locked themselves with the horrid creature? What about houses with supernatural squatters? The kind that makes one's stay an existential nightmare?

There are houses that are just nasty by themselves and others that have supernatural visitors with unfinished business.

Little house of horrors

With *Haunted Mansion*, a needless reboot of the 20-year-old Eddie Murphy starrer, which was an adaptation of theme park, (sounds like the house Jack built) sputtering on a screen near you, let us take a look at what happens when our safe spaces turn against us.

An old, mansion/castle with a history of violent death and unhappy spirits wandering about the musty, dusty corridors is as old as time itself. Remember Hamlet encountering his father's ghost on the ramparts of Elsinore castle? Shakespeare was not above haunted mansions and gloomy ghosts murmuring about murders most foul.

Shirley Jackson's terrifying *The Haunting of Hill House* (1959), long considered one of the best literary ghost stories, was adapted twice into film, *The Haunting* (1963, 1999) and once for a streaming series, *The Haunting of Hill House* (2018). The gothic novel speaks of a paranormal investigator renting Hill House to study supernatural phenomena. Two very different women, Eleanor and Theodora, accept the investigator's invitation. Luke Sanderson, the owner of Hill House completes the party.

The Haunting (1963), the film directed by Robert Wise was fairly close to the book and succeeded in spooking one and all including Martin Scorsese, who has given it the top spot of the scariest movie of all time.

The 1999 version, starring Liam Neeson, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Owen Wilson, and directed by Jan de Bont, incidentally was quite dreadful.

Lost in space

Ghosts seem to be like cats attached to a space rather than people and houses seem to inherit the bad karma of wicked deeds and pass it on to the next occupants.

It would be nice if it worked the other way too, with good luck, health and wealth being transferred through brick and mortar.

The Amityville Horror (1979) was based on Jay Anson's eponymous 1977 novel detailing the experiences of a family that moves into a house where mass murders took place and are terrorised by malignant spirits. The book has spawned a never-ending series of films, 29 at last count.

Steven Spielberg showed one does not need a derelict mansion to rustle up scares with *Poltergeist* (1982) while Tim Burton tells the haunted house story from the ghost's perspective in the horror comedy, *Beetlejuice* (1988).

The Conjuring universe and Paranormal Activity movies also have evil spirits hanging about homes and terrorising the good folk within.

Us and them

Jordan Peale's *Get Out* was confined to a home with bigots rather than malevolent spirits doing the hell raising. Peele's *Us* in 2019 used devilish doppelgangers to tell a cutting tale. Even *The Blair Witch Project* (1999), which kicked off the found footage genre, ends in a cottage with no chance of escape for poor, haunted Heather. One must not let *Crimson Peak* (2015) Guillermo del Toro's gorgeous take on the gothic, slip between cracks. Starring Mia Wasikowska and Tom Hiddleston, the movie is a visual tour de force.

Feeling at home

All horror need not be in a house, it could be in a hotel like the Overlook Hotel in Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* (1980), in space with *Alien* (1979) and *Event Horizon* (1997) being prime examples. What is Ridley Scott's *Alien* but a haunted house in space with the awful face huggers and chest exploders prowling the clanking corridors of the abandoned space ship? *Ghost Ship* (2002), by Steve Beck, who also directed *Thirteen Ghosts* (2001) about a mansion with 12 furious ghosts trapped in it, uses a ship to stand in for a haunted house. Incidentally, the film has the most effective opening sequence.

In Indian films

In India too, the haunted house is a favoured option for filmmakers. The venerable Ramsay Brothers had haunted *havelis* galore in their films. Earlier this year, we had the Malayalam film, *Neelavelicham*, Aashiq Abu's perhaps too-faithful tribute to the iconic *Bhargavi Nilayam* (1964). Based on Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's short story, '*Neelavelicham*'– the film talked about writer (a dashing Madhu) who forms a bond with Bhargavi (Vijaya Nirmala) who dies under mysterious circumstances. The film was a smash hit and is so entrenched in the collective unconscious so as to contribute the term *bhargavi nilayam* to mean an abandoned, spooky house. There is something compact about horror within four walls, where one logically assumes one is safe. The subversion of that expectation is what creates that frisson of terror. In practical terms, a single location makes for cheap thrills in more ways than one. Throw in some winding corridors and flickering lights and you are set for an electrifying time at the movies.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The African nation of Niger has been recently in the news following a coup. Here's a quiz about that part of Africa

Suresh Seshadri

QUESTION 1
What is the name of the geographical feature that lends its name to Niger and its neighbouring West African nation Nigeria?

QUESTION 2
This predominantly Muslim ethnic group constitutes the majority in Niger and is also the largest grouping in Nigeria. What is it called?

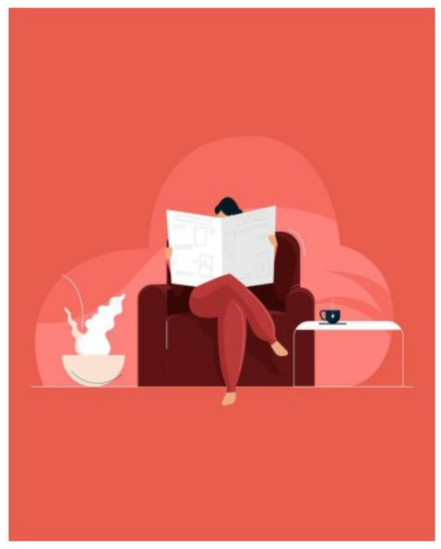
QUESTION 3
Both these former colonies won independence – Niger from the French, and Nigeria from the British - in the same year. Which year was it?

QUESTION 4
The two West African economies are highly reliant on resource extraction and export for their revenue and foreign exchange earnings. While oil is the major resource for Nigeria, __ is the main export from Niger. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5
Niger and Nigeria are founding members of a regional multilateral grouping. What is the name of this grouping?

Visual Question: This man is a predecessor to the President who has been deposed in the coup. Name the person.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The Cauvery River is essential for the production of this famous variety of rice. **Ans: Ponni**
2. Thanjavur is renowned for its unique style of painting, characterised by rich colors and intricate detailing. Name the traditional art form that flourished during the Chola dynasty. **Ans: Tanjore Paintings**
3. Name the Maratha ruler of Thanjavur. **Ans: Serfoji II**
4. Born in Thiruvaiyaru, Thanjavur, this renowned Carnatic composer is often referred to as the "Trinity of Carnatic Music." **Ans: Saint Tyagaraja**
5. Name the sweet desert special to the Thanjavur delta region. **Ans: Asoka Halwa**
Visual: Name the celebration at the banks of the Cauvery in Tiruchi. **Ans: Aadi Peruku**
Early Birds: KN Viswanathan | Raisul Islam | Rita Desa | M Suresh Kumar | Sarvesha Das



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, R, Mr. Dutt, 16/83, Satyanarayanapuram, wants to know the difference between 'at fault' and 'in fault'."

"The correct expression is 'at fault'. 'He is at fault' means that he is to blame. 'At fault' means 'in the wrong'. 'In fault' is used occasionally but it is archaic. So don't use it. Do you know what 'to a fault' means?"

"No, Sir."

" 'To a fault' means 'excessively'. This is used when you describe the fine qualities of a person. It is not used in other contexts. 'He is generous to a fault' means that his generosity is so excessive that it almost becomes a fault in him. In other words, he is extraordinarily generous. 'Fault' can also be used as a verb. 'To fault someone' is 'to find fault with someone'. When you fault someone, you criticise him. You can't fault his teaching methods. You can't fault his performance."

"Sir, Mr. P. V. G. K. Murthy, 22, New Vidyanagar Colony, Ramakrishnapuram, Secunderabad, wants to know the meaning of the expression 'to salt away'."

" To salt away' means 'to store or preserve for future use, especially money.' He has salted away a considerable amount of money. To preserve meat or vegetables, you add salt. This is to enable you to make use of them at a later time. From this you get the figurative meaning of 'salt away'. When you salt away your money, you preserve or reserve it for future use."

"Mr. T. A. Srinivasa, Bangalore, who refers to himself as a 'young 'boy' of 72 years and nine months' wants to know whether 'reflex action' and 'force of habit' mean the same."

"A reflex action is physiological. It is 'independent of the will, caused as an automatic response to nerve stimulation'. Sneezing, shivering are the result of reflex action. When you do something as a result of habit, you are said to do it out of force of habit. Teachers constantly ask the question 'Do you understand?' in the classroom. A teacher asked a judge in a Court of Law, 'Do you understand?'. The teacher did it out of force of habit. The judge asked the teacher not to treat him as a student. A reflex action is physiological, but a force of habit is the result of 'settled practice'. You/can cure yourself of a habit. You can't cure yourself of 'reflex action'. When there is no reflex action in you, your doctor becomes worried and you become reflective."

"Sir, Mr. T. S. Sai Babu, PA, Vice-Chancellor's Office, University of Hyderabad, wants to know the meaning of the sentence, 'You are a peach'."

" 'You are a peach' means 'You are an unusually attractive person'. 'Peach' means 'an unusually attractive girl or young woman'. She is a peach. It is generally used with women or girls. It is also used to describe 'things of superlative merit'. It was a peach of a speech. It was a peach of a game. 'Peach' rhymes with 'beach' and 'teach'."

Published in The Hindu on November 22, 1988

Word of the day

Facetious:
taking serious situations too lightly, inappropriate humour

Synonyms: Flippant, playful, witty

Usage: *She kept interrupting our discussion with facetious remarks.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/facetiouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fəˈsiːʃəs/

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28% of high schools, 32% of primary schools lack access to drinking water: Report

Around 12% of primary and 10% of high schools do not have library facility, even as 61.42% of students surveyed say they like reading books

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Several government schools in Karnataka lack basic facilities, with about 28% of high schools and 32% of primary schools lacking access to even clean drinking water on the premises, says the State Achievement Survey 2022-23 (SAS) report. This is despite the government taking the initiative to provide drinking water to all the schools under Jal Jeevan Mission scheme.

Only 35.27% of schools have teachers for all prescribed subjects as per the survey. About 12% of primary and 10% of high schools do not have library facility, even as 61.42% of students surveyed said they like reading books.

Schools in the State lack clean drinking water despite the government taking the initiative to provide drinking water to all the schools under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Though there was much talk about the need for computers as learning aids during the pandemic, to this day, around 41% of high schools and 67% of primary schools do not have computer facilities. It has been 23 years since computer education was introduced in government schools. About 28% of schools do not have even electricity. Interestingly, in contrast to private schools, around 84% of primary school and 49% of high school students come to school walking. Around 75% of primary school students and 36% of high schools students come to school from a distance of less than 1 km. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Umesh G. Gangavadi, president of School Development and Monitoring Committee said, "Most of the government schools are facing various infrastructural problems. Recent heavy rains and floods in many parts of the State have also damaged many schools. Therefore, the government should provide the basic facilities to the government schools on a priority basis."

Cauvery B.B., Commissioner of Public Instruction said, "The department has given high priority to drinking water and toilets in schools. In the recent State Budget, the government has allocated separate fund for the schools infrastructure. We will utilise all these grants and improve facilities."

Student learning achievement continues to be poor in the State

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Despite implementation of Kalika Chetarike (Learning Recovery) programme in 2022-23, the performance and learning achievement of students remain poor in Karnataka, especially that of high school students.The programme was formulated to arrest the learning loss that occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic-induced school closure.

According to the State Achievement Survey 2022-23 (SAS), which was conducted by the Department of School Education and Literacy recently, high school students lag behind those from primary schools in learning achievements.

Significant decline

Compared to the 2018 SAS, there was a significant decline in learning in the 2022-23 survey report. Learning achievement of grade 3 and 5 students was relatively good when compared of students of grades 8, 9 and 10.

The Karnataka School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Council (KSQAAC), which is the affiliate organisation of the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB), conducted SAS under the guidance of Ramachandrana R., Chairman of KSEAB.

In addition to knowing the learning quality of school children in Karnataka, the basic facilities of schools, teacher qualification, midday meals programme, teaching and learning environment, learning quality, the KSQAAC has conducted this SAS survey to devise necessary measures for improvement of the education system.

The KSQAAC conducted this survey for students of grades 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10 of government-run primary, higher primary and high schools in Karnataka. Interestingly, there was no significant differences in learning achievement between Kannada and English medium students.

KSQAAC identified 2,618 primary schools and 694 high schools. They selected 33,573 students from grade 3, 35,645 students from grade 5, 40,122 from grade 8, 52,992 from grade 9 and 49,511 students from grade 10 for a written test. Pre-printed customised OMR sheets with QR code were given for tests in Kannada, English, Hindi, English, mathematics, environmental studies, science and social science subjects.

In grade-wise achievement, primary school students performance is better than high school students. Grade 3 students achieved 83% of result and grade 5 achieved 71%. But grade 8 scored 51%, grade 9 scored 50%, and grade 10 got 54%.

Girls performed better than boys. Grade 3 girls got 84%, and boys 82%. In grade 5, girls got 73%, and boys 69%. But in grade 10, 56% of girls and 53% of boys did well. Grade 3 students performed better in language than in mathematics. Grade 5 students did better in English, mathematics and environmental studies.Learning achievement in first language Kannada was low. The report recommends more programmes for learning Kannada as first language for grade 5 students.

Math and science

In mathematics and science, Grade 8 and 9 students achievement is less than 50%, and improvement measures are needed, noted the report.

Learning in high school was particularly poor in mathematics and science. In maths, Grade 8 students got 45% results, grade 9 students got 39% and grade 10 students achieved 54%. In science, Grade 8 and 10 students secured 43%, and grade 9 students got 42% results.

Ramachandran. R., Chairman of KSEAB, said, "National Achievement Survey and Foundational Learning Study have been conducted at the national level to identify changes in student learning post-Covid. It was found that students' progress in learning has declined. After the national level surveys, SAS did a survey in selected government schools. According to the results of the survey, there is a need for improvements in the learning of students. District and taluk level officials, head teachers and teachers should take necessary measures."

Cauvery B.B., Commissioner for Public Instruction, told *The Hindu*, "The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the education sector in a large way, and it will take time to improve. Even if the results are poor, there is scope for improvement. All of us will have to put in a lot of effort."

Achievement by grade and gender

Grade	Boys	Girls	Total	Achievement		
				Boys	Girls	Total
3	15,674	16,134	31,808	82%	84%	83%
5	16,876	17,359	34,235	69%	74%	71%
8	17,301	18,487	35,788	49%	52%	51%
9	21,233	23,636	44,869	48%	51%	50%
10	19,906	22,838	42,744	53%	56%	54%

Govt. eyes ₹2,854 crore CSR funding for education sector and skill training

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka government is looking at increasing CSR spending in the education sector and skilling of youth across the State, as it has drawn up the CSR requirement to be about ₹2,854 crore for the year 2023-2024.

The needs that could be met through CSR has been identified for solar-based smart classroom at schools, skills on wheels (1027 schools in 25 districts), classrooms and skill labs in 99 polytechnics and 11 engineering colleges, 6,000 multi skills labs, teaching, supplementary nutrition to school children, apprenticeship/internship opportunities in about 59,000 establishments, digital library and library upgradation, and sports equipment.

It is also seeking donation of used/old PCs/ laptops to address shortage of desktops in 2,275 schools and laptops in 1,600 secondary schools.

Between 2016 to 2017 and 2020 to 2021, more than 50% of the CSR funds have been spent on the education sector, and the Government is looking at increasing the engagement with corporates on Friday to increase the spending on improving the education sector.

The State received ₹1,278 crore in 2020-21 as CSR, third highest in the country after Maharashtra and Gujarat; it is projected that about ₹2,000 crore would be the CSR due for period upto 2023

Lion's share

According to data available, of the total ₹5,705 crore that came as CSR between 2016 to 2017 and 2020 to 2021, ₹2,940 was spent in the education sector, while ₹ 1,517 crore, and ₹822 crore were spent on health and environment sector respectively.

While Karnataka received ₹1,278 crore in 2020-21 as CSR, third highest in the country after Maharashtra and Gujarat, it is projected that about ₹ 2,000 crore would be the CSR due for the period upto 2023.

The CSR funds have gradually increased since 2016 to 2017 when ₹876 crore flowed into the State.

CSR conclave

The Government data prepared ahead of the CSR conclave: Education - Make a social impact on Friday in which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will participate, has identified the challenges in the education sector.

The State has estimated the annual budget for education to be about ₹38,000 crore of which about ₹25,350 crore goes towards salary of teachers and staff. While ₹1,635 crore will be spent on mid-day meals, ₹730 crore will be spent on eggs and ₹185 crore, and ₹160 crore will be spent on free uniforms, and free textbooks respectively.

The government will also spend ₹ 1,040 crore on scholarships and ₹ 1,250 crore on infrastructure.

State quota medical seats up by 553

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's share of Under Graduate Medical and Dental courses seats for the academic year of 2023-24 is increased by 553. In the academic year 2022-23, the State had total of 11,042 seats and this year it had total of 11,595.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority has announced the revised seat matrix for the undergraduate medical and dental courses. Among 11,595 total seats, 572 seats are all India quota seats in the government medical colleges, 4,982 government quota seats, 2,501 deemed universities quota seats, 2,512 private management, 767 NRI quota, and 261 others seats.

This year, National Medical Commission has approved for three new medical colleges: Chitradurga Institute of Medical Sciences and Research and Chamundeswari Medical College in Channapatna in Ramanagara district, each with 150 seat capacity and Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Researchin Muddenahalli, Chikkaballapur district with 50 seats capacity.

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1,295 students graduate from University of Agricultural Sciences

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru conferred degrees to 1,295 students in its 57th convocation ceremony held on Thursday. While 891 students received Bachelor's degrees, 299 students received Master's degrees, and 105 students received Doctoral degrees. The University also gave out a total of 160 gold medals to 66 students (49 girls and 17 boys).

Gold medal winners at 57th convocation of the University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore in Bengaluru on Thursday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Addressing the convocation, Governor Thawarchand Gehlot emphasised the crucial role of agriculture in India's economy and stressed the importance of empowering farmers with advanced cultivation techniques and technologies.

He also praised the university's efforts in research and development of new agricultural technologies, and said, "Graduates should utilise the knowledge gained from the University for the betterment of the country and society." N. Chaluvarayaswamy, the Agriculture Minister and the Pro-Chancellor of the university said, "UAS, Bengaluru must organise skill oriented training programmes for seed production targeting various crops, with the aim of empowering local unemployed youth in the agricultural sector."

In 2023, UAS, Bengaluru was ranked 11th out of 107 farm universities and 90th under the overall university category in the country. Presently, they're conducting research in crop production and crop protection to make farming more efficient.

Their focus for the future will include the implementation of sustainable programmes to achieve food and nutritional security as well as implementation of systems to manage post-harvest losses and maximise produce..

Street vendors at Gandhinagar in Bengaluru. Hundreds of street vendors have been evicted over the past few weeks as part of a special drive taken up by BBMP and the police to clear footpaths of all 'encroachments' to make way for pedestrians. K. MURALI KUMAR

Pedestrian safety drive running roughshod over street vendors' rights?

A recent drive by the Bengaluru police and the civic body to rid pavements of encroachments by street vendors has sparked a larger debate on their rights under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, finds **K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj**

I had been selling vegetables by the roadside for years. But recently, civic officials and police evicted me, saying I can no longer sell on the footpath. I don't know where to go. How do I make a living? I don't know any other trade apart from this," said Shantamma, a street vendor in K.R. Puram in her fifties. She has found a new spot on another street but remains constantly afraid of being evicted from there too.

Like her, hundreds of street vendors have been evicted across the city over the past few weeks as part of a special drive taken up by Bengaluru's civic body and traffic police to clear footpaths of all "encroachments" to make way for pedestrians and prevent them from jaywalking. The drive was triggered by an increasing number of pedestrian deaths in accidents on the city's streets.

Deaths of pedestrians

While 164 and 161 pedestrians were killed in road accidents in the city in 2020 and 2021, respectively, the death toll of pedestrians shot up to 247 in 2022. Alok Kumar, Commissioner, Traffic and Road Safety, devised a holistic plan to not only reduce pedestrian deaths but also free footpaths and improve them. Lack of walkable footpaths forced pedestrians to use the roadway, increasing pedestrian deaths, police said. A study of the cause of pedestrian fatalities indicates that of the 247, as many as 62 people were killed while walking by the side of the road, suggesting this may be because of a lack of walkable footpaths on these streets.

M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner (Traffic), said the "Reclaim Footpaths" drive was taken up by all traffic police stations in their respective jurisdictions in collaboration with the civic body. "While we are focusing on removing parked vehicles, encroachments by shops and eateries on footpaths, apart from other encroachments, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has taken up a drive to remove street vendors from main roads," he explained.

BBMP launched the drive from the Yelahanka zone, and now all zonal joint commissioners are leading the special drive to clear footpaths on main roads, including street vendors. "We are focusing more on permanent and semi-permanent structures that many street vendors have put up on footpaths," a senior civic official said.

An 'elitist' idea?

While pedestrian safety may have triggered the special drive, it is now also part of the more extensive "Brand Bengaluru" campaign spearheaded by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

"Slowly, the campaign is taking on elitist underpinnings and acquiring a tone of "beautification" of the city without solving the basic problems first. But the government should not lose its way and start catering to the middle-class view of a city. Then the poor, like street vendors, will likely face the brunt of it. We have seen this happen in Gandhi Bazaar in South Bengaluru, where street vendors are part of its identity and charm," said N.S. Mukunda, of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, a forum of citizens.

As several street vendor organisations upset over the eviction drive, made representations to Mr. Shivakumar, including taking out a protest march on Tuesday, he has said that the government would soon come out with guidelines that would be a "win-win" situation for pedestrians and street vendors. Sources in the civic body said they were mulling over not only demarcating spots for street vendors but also levying a nominal ground rent so that they "develop a sense of ownership and stick to these spots".

> Slowly, the campaign is taking on elitist underpinnings and acquiring a tone of 'beautification' of the city without solving the basic problems first.
>
> **N.S. MUKUNDA**
> Bengaluru Praja Vedike

Street vendors selling vegetables, fruits, and flowers in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

However, street vendor organisations are livid over what they call "scant regard" authorities have for the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, a United Progressive Alliance (UPA) era Central law that regulates street vending while protecting their rights.

New guidelines vs. old Act

The Act provides the constitution of town vending committees with representatives of street vendors, resident welfare associations (RWAs), and officials from all relevant agencies, which will regulate vending in the zone and demarcate town vending zones.

"How the civic body can issue new guidelines overruling the Union government Act is something we all are at a loss to understand. Moreover, how can the civic body decide that street vendors are encroachers?" asked S. Babu, President, Bengaluru Jilla Beedi Vyapari Sanghatanegala Okkuta, a street vendors' collective. Several street vendor organisations wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah last month appealing to him to stop the eviction drive, terming it "illegal", but to no avail. C.E. Rangaswamy, president, Street Vendors' Cell, Karnataka Pradesh Congress, and also the president of Karnataka Beedi Badi Vyapari Sanghatanegala Okkuta, said they had appealed to all concerned Ministers. Soon a grievance redressal meeting will be held for street vendors, in which DCM Mr. Shivakumar, Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, Skill Development Minister Sharan Prakash Patil and Municipal Administration Department Rahim Khan will participate.

"In many areas, civic officials are demanding ID cards, and if there is none, they term such vendors illegal and evict them. Recently, in Tilak Nagar, police refused to acknowledge BBMP-issued ID cards as well and evicted vendors. There is a complete lack of awareness and disregard among even civic and police officials, MLAs and ministers about the Street Vendors Act, 2014. Not one street vendor has been served a notice before eviction during the ongoing drive," said Vinay Sreenivasa, an All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) activist, to which Okkuta is affiliated.

Demand for ID cards

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) conducted a survey of street vendors in 2017 under National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), during which it identified 25,000 street vendors and issued ID cards to 20,000 of them. This was even as the city has an estimated 1.5 lakh street vendors, which seems to have only shot up after the pandemic-induced job losses.

"After issuing ID cards to less than a quarter of the estimated number of street vendors, how can the civic body deem every vendor without an ID card illegal?" questioned Mr. Babu.

The same civic body had initiated the procedure to resurvey street vendors in the city in 2022 because of a strange problem it found itself in. The Union Government had, in 2022, fixed a target of 85,000 beneficiaries of the city under the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi) scheme, which provides small loans up to ₹20,000 to street vendors. But only registered street vendors could avail this loan and Bengaluru has only around 25,000 registered vendors.

"The tenders were finalised earlier this year. But we did not do it as elections intervened, and the survey had the potential to be misused during elections; we did not go ahead with it. Now we are thinking about whether we should go ahead with the on-ground survey or not. We think we can provide an opportunity for street vendors to come and register," said Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

Lax implementation

While street vendor organisations' immediate demand is for a pan-city survey of street vendors, they point to the overall lax implementation of the Street Vendors Act in the city, which, if implemented to the letter and spirit, would protect their livelihoods and rights, they argue. "It's a statutory requirement for the civic body to carry out an on-ground survey of street vendors at the place of vending. Asking them to register will not do. When we objected to the survey being outsourced and not carried out in-house by the civic body, the civic body said they would do geo-tagging of the place of vending during the survey, which civic officials were not well versed in. Now the civic body seems to be abandoning the survey altogether," Mr. Sreenivasa said.

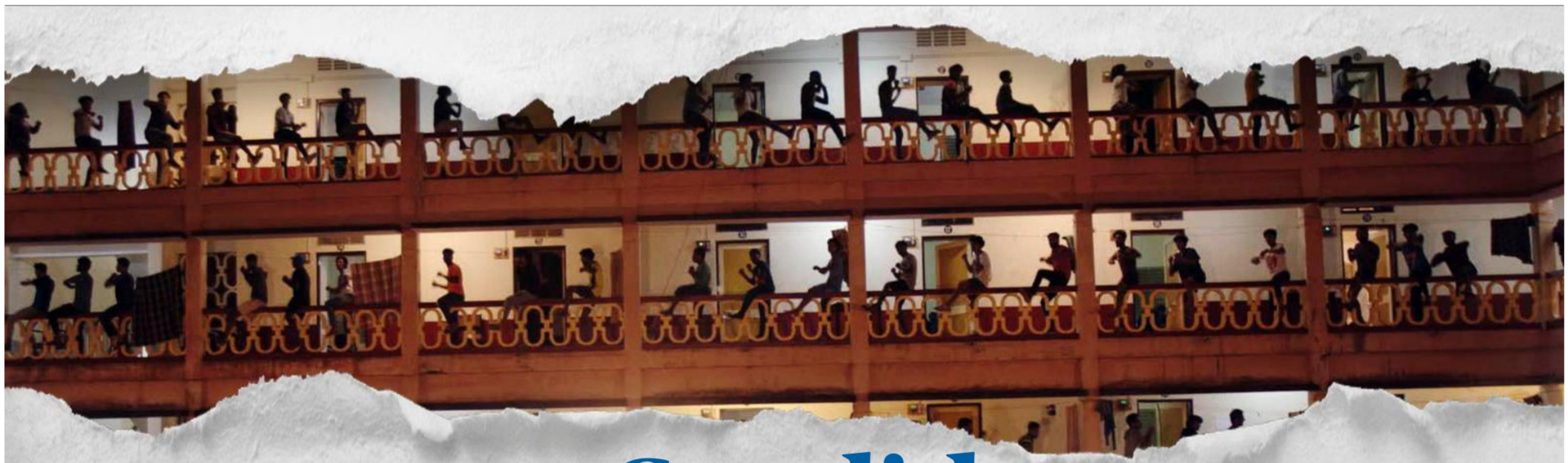
Mr. Rangaswamy demanded that the survey must not only include geo-tagging the place of vending but also biometrics of the vendor to bust what he called the street-vending "mafia" that had taken root in the city. "Many local goondas have taken hold of spots and charge a rent of up to ₹1,000 per day from vendors. In some cases, businessmen buy stocks in bulk and hawk them through hundreds of vendors," he said.

The survey apart, street vendors complained that the architecture that the Act provides to regulate vending was not completely functional yet in the city. While Town Vending Committees have been formed in all zones except Bommanahalli in 2020, these Committees are not yet full-fledged as representatives of RWAs and trade unions to be nominated by the civic body, is not done yet. "Most officials are not serious about street vendors, reflected in how irregular TVC meetings are. Most officials do not turn up for the meetings. Though the Committees are there, they have been rendered dysfunctional," Mr. Rangaswamy said. The State government is yet to frame bye-laws for the Act as well.

Pedestrian safety

Despite several appeals by street vendors to stop the footpath eviction drive, the State government seems keen to continue. Even Mr. Shivakumar, responding to appeals by street vendors, said only illegal encroachments would be removed, and care would be taken to ensure protections under the Street Vendors Act, 2014. "The total length of the road network in the city is over 13,000 km. We have taken up footpath encroachment clearance drive only on arterial and main roads totalling to 1,200 km, less than 10% of the total road network. This drive is taken up in light of the increasing deaths of pedestrians in accidents on these roads. We need to strike a balance between pedestrians and street vendors. We are not bothered about pushcarts much but want to clear all permanent and semi-permanent structures on these pavements," said Mr. Giri Nath.

However, street vendor organisations said that the civic body would be able to strike a balance if the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, is implemented in letter and spirit rather than these ad-hoc measures whose brunt the poor bear.



Candid camera and the art of improv

Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare is running to packed houses in Karnataka. Director Nithin Krishnamurthy and cinematographer Arvind Kashyap talk about its making

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Trigger warning: this article contains material related to suicide and mental illness. Discretion is advised.

The urge to make an "original picture" fuelled Nithin Krishnamurthy to think of *Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare*. "I have always believed that cinema must push boundaries. I didn't want people to be reminded of any other film while watching this movie," says the director, reflecting on the success of his debut venture.

The Kannada film which released on July 21, has been hailed for reviving the industry. While big films failed to seduce audiences in the first six months of the year, college crowds are flocking to theatres to watch *Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare*. Youngsters are loving the film's raw energy, chaotic drama and hilarious dialogues.

Nithin, post his Engineering days, met cinematographer Arvind Kashyap on the sets of Pawan Kumar's experimental film *Lucia* (2013). The duo, with Prajwal BP, has co-produced *Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare* with Varun Gowda. The path-breaking *Lucia*, a crowd-funded Kannada feature film, had lit the fire in the trio.

"We never thought about pitching this film to a producer," says Arvind. "We wondered if anybody would understand the concept and fund it. We also didn't know how to convince someone. Initially, the budget was affordable, and we used our savings to kickstart the project. Later on, as the scale of the film became bigger, many teammates chipped in with money to ensure we didn't compromise on anything."

Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare is about an incident that occurs one night at a boy's hostel. The hostel warden died by suicide, and his letter names a few boys as the reason for his extreme step. The boys need to find a way out of the situation before they write their exams the next morning.

Despite having a script, Nithin shot the film in the *cinéma vérité* style. The dialogues feel spontaneous, and the camera remains in observational mode throughout to give viewers a fly-on-the-wall effect. The improvisation of dialogues was the most striking feature of the film's writing, says Nithin.

"I wrote this story in six weeks. There were at least 10-12 actors in each scene, and there was constant overlapping of dialogue. We didn't cut those dialogues off because we wanted the scenes to look natural. So even if the script was locked, the dialogues had to be improvised during the shoot," he explains.

Handling the crowd was Arvind's biggest challenge. "There were scenes involving more than 50 people and 20 different dialogues. So we all had to know the sequence of dialogues and the placement of actors. Since most of the scenes are single takes, I had to memorise the scenes and dialogues," he says.

For someone who shot big-scale films such as *777 Charlie* and *Kantara*, filming *Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare* was stepping out of his comfort zone. "I was not compelled to shoot anything beautiful or scenic. The cinematography had to appear raw to suit the movie's concept," says Arvind.

Several last-minute changes were bound to happen while shooting with a script without a traditional structure. "We added several dialogues during the dubbing sessions," says Nithin. "We hadn't even written the climax. We had a couple of options in mind, so we decided to watch the complete film and then take a call."

The response to his film shows how audiences have updated themselves, believes Nithin. "With the OTT boom, film buffs have found better exposure to quality content. So if you can risk a bit as a filmmaker, audiences are sure to back you."

If these topics cause emotional, mental, or physical distress, please call 096111 94949 /080 23655557/ 080 23656667 / 9152987821 / 1800-5990019

Beat the odds A still from *Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare;* cinematographer Arvind Kashyap (right). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Romancing the classical

Enjoy classical music favourites at the Orchestral Concert this weekend

Hitting the right notes The Bangalore School of Music's orchestra. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
(ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in)

The Bangalore School of Music (BSM) will be conducting an Orchestral Concert this weekend. The school's Chamber Orchestra will present some of the best-loved pieces of classical music at the event.

"The event will feature a lot of music from the Romantic period such as Tchaikovsky's *Elegy*. The orchestra would see woodwind instruments such as flutes and the bass clarinet, which is not a very common instrument. It's going to be a more contemplative, expressive evening of music," says Rebecca Thomas Colaco, director of Academic Studies, BSM.

"All through the year, the orchestra focusses on a wide variety of music and different instruments. Our previous programme centred on Baroque music, so this time round we focussed on music from the Romantic era," she says, adding, "Chamber music focusses on instruments from the string family – the violin, viola, cello and double bass. The flutes will join in for Faure's meditative Pavane."

According to Anant Kamath, concert master at BSM, "There will be a duet, quintet, ensemble and winds, across different styles of music. Our repertoire this time comprises popular and significant pieces in the Western art genre, which have been transcribed for the string orchestra."

Audiences can expect renditions of Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite, Cavalleria Rusticana, a quartet playing Waltz of the Flowers, and a violin-cello duo performing a Passacaglia, among others.

To be conducted by V Narayanaswamy, the Orchestral Concert will be held at the Aruna Sunderlal Auditorium at the Bangalore School of Music on August 6, 2023.

Tickets priced at ₹499 are available on Insider.

Documenting time

Time Stood Still, a solo exhibition by artist Jaikishan Tada, is currently on display at MKF Museum of Art

Ruth Dhanaraj
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As a boy, Jaikishan Tada was so enamoured by the works of cartoonist RK Laxman, that he wanted to be a cartoonist when he grew up. "I would have been in class seven or eight at that time; I was tremendously influenced by his illustrations. I wanted to become a cartoonist too."

However, life took him in a different direction and Jaikishan became a software engineer, working in that field for more than 20 years. "It was in 2008, that I began to feel I had to do something that would bring me peace and happiness, something that would stay with me. Those thoughts re-ignited my interest in art and I began to paint," says the Bengaluru-based artist.

"Whether it was destiny or not, I cannot say, but my wife Ranjitha Acharya, is also an artist," he adds. "She's been my teacher, mentor and first critic."

Apart from Ranjitha's inputs, Jaikishan says he used to pore over the works of great masters, studying their lives and works from their early years. "That was my art education – looking at their work in chronological order, learning how their art evolved and gleaning as much information I could from the Internet."

Heeding the call Jaikishan Tada and work from his Hampi series. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jaikishan was so focussed on his newfound passion, that he quit his job in 2009, to pursue art full time. "My sole aim was to hold just one exhibition of my work. We were living in Hyderabad at the time and our home was filled with paintings my wife and I were working on."

For a person who yearned for one solo show, Jaikishan enjoyed four exhibitions in the span of two years, and despite going back to a corporate setup, the call of art was so strong, he opted for an early retirement in 2022.

A look at Jaikishan's work shows a bold use of colour and geometric shapes to capture landscapes in an abstract Cubist manner.

"I started with watercolours and then went on to use oils. It's easy for beginners to work with oils as it offers a lot of flexibility and a chance to experiment," says the artist who has, over time, come to prefer acrylics as his medium of choice.

"While I was experimenting in my way of rendering how I wanted to express myself, I found a way of using a palette knife to add layers to my art Acrylics are more favourable for my kind of work as the bottom layers dry up fast, making it easier to apply the next coat. Though I also use a brush, my final touches are delivered using the knife," says Jaikishan.

Talking about the works in Time Stood Still, Jaikishan recalls a family trip to Hampi in 2013, after they relocated from Hyderabad. "The landscape was a revelation for me – the play of sunlight on the rocks and ruins as well as the shadows they threw, stirred my abstract insights. Though I primarily do pure abstracts, I wanted to bring out the identity of Hampi in my representations."

This fascination with Hampi inspired this series, with a majority of the 14 canvases, ranging between 24x36 and 24x24, having been executed over the last one year.

Time Stood Still will be on display at MKF Museum of Art till August 13, 2023.

STEPOUT

Catch up

Celebrate Friendship Day with the #SOCIALReunion party, called Reunite & Reminisce. It will include a retro-themed party, music, dance and food.
There will also be offers and discounts as part of the celebrations. Besides these, there will also be activities such as postcard writing, friendship bands, and secrets spills through slam books.
On August 6 at all Social outlets in the city noon onwards.

Anglo-Indian Day

Celebrate World Anglo Indian Day at the Raft, Koramangala.
The event will include performances by Bengaluru's country and retro bands — Blue Mountain High, The Four Strokes and DJ Dereck.
Tickets available on https://pages.razorpay.com/pl_MDD0MREQMvXfDE/view#view-1
On August 5, 7pm onwards.

Fishy flavours

Esplanade is now serving up, The flavours of Bengal.
This curated menu offers the classic boneless *elish paturi*, that is marinated and steamed in banana leaves.
The menu also includes traditional dishes like *narkel posto elish* and *doi elish.*
On till August 20, for lunch and dinner. Call 40927878 or 7204636284 to book a table.

Contaminated water: Residents of Kavadigara Hatti in shock following three deaths

Even four days after the first death was reported, many people in the Dalit colony, including children, continue to complain of illness

Sathish G.T.
KAVADIGARA HATTI (CHITRADURGA)

Residents of Kavadigara Hatti in Chitradurga district blocking the bypass connecting NH 13 and NH 4 to vent their ire at the district administration on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Three deaths, allegedly due to consumption of contaminated water, have left residents of a Dalit colony at Kavadigara Hatti in Chitradurga district in shock and despair. Four days after the first death was reported, many people, including children, continue to complain of illness.

Manjula, 25, Raghu, 26, of Kavadigara Hatti, and Praveen of Vaddara Siddanahalli near Chitradurga have died in the last four days. Manjula was admitted to a hospital on the night of July 30 after she complained of erratic bowel movement. She succumbed the next day. She is survived by her husband and two-year-old daughter Sakshi, who is also under treatment. Raghu had returned to Bengaluru, where he worked in a private firm, on July 31. He died on Tuesday. Praveen, who had visited his relatives in Kavadigara Hatti on July 30, died later at Vaddara Siddanahalli.

'He was here on visit'

Raghu's mother Vimalamma was in tears. "My son had come to put his signature for a bank document. Within hours of returning to Bengaluru, he developed health complications and died," she said. Raghu is survived by his mother and two sisters. His sister Ashwini's three children have fallen sick and are undergoing treatment in a private hospital in Davangere.

Nearly 100 persons are undergoing treatment in different hospitals. An ambulance has been allotted to the village. The ambulance took at least five patients to hospitals on Thursday.

"It is a mystery. Nobody has understood why our people are falling ill. I don't know how many more have to be hospitalised," said Manju, a villager. As the reason for the illness is not clear, the residents remain worried. "I have not been able to eat or sleep, as we are not sure what will happen next. We are not sure if we are drinking safe water," said Maala, Manjula's sister.

Villagers block road

The residents of the village are expressing their anger by stopping vehicles on the bypass that connects NH 13 and NH 4. They allege that the district administration has failed to respond to the woes of residents which they attribute to supply of contaminated water.

The villagers allege that the administration has not taken necessary steps to provide sufficient potable water and food to the affected families.

No trace of poison: Report

The Hindu Bureau
CHITRADURGA

The FSL report of the samples of water collected from the locality and the viscera of the dead did not show any traces of poison. Chitradurga SP K. Parashuram told *The Hindu* that the tests of samples conducted in SFL in Davangere did not show traces of poison.

"We had sent samples of water collected from the locality and the house of the patients. We had also sent the viscera of the dead for examination," he said.

Analysis of samples shows water supplied unfit for consumption

The Hindu Bureau
CHITRADURGA

The drinking water supplied to Kavadigara Hatti in Chitradurga district was unfit for consumption, as per biological analysis of samples collected from the village following the death of three persons. So far, 122 people are under treatment, and seven have been discharged.

Chitradurga Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu G.R.J. suspended a pump operator, who is a Group D employee, and recommended the suspension of the Assistant Executive Engineer and a Junior Engineer of Chitradurga City Municipal Council.

Ms. Divya Prabhu told *The Hindu* that, *prima facie*, the biological analysis of the samples suggested that the water was unfit for consumption. She suspended pump operator C.H. Prakash Babu, and relieved two more persons hired through an outsourcing agency. Besides that, she has recommended the government suspend AEE Manjunath R. Giraraddi and Junior Engineer Kiran. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had instructed the DC to probe the incident and suspend the officers responsible.

"There is one overhead tank in the locality and from that water is supplied to seven streets. So far, cases have been reported from three streets. All those who fell ill belong to Scheduled Castes. We are waiting for chemical analysis of the samples," Ms. Divya Prabhu said. She has recommended ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh each to the families of the three persons who died in the last four days.

"We have set up a temporary clinic in the locality. Doctors and other staff have been screening the locals. Through this exercise, we have been able to save many lives. The district administration has made alternative arrangements for drinking water supply. We have arranged for food kits as well," she said.

CM asks Centre to hold air show during Dasara in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and requested him to hold an air show by the Indian Air Force in Mysuru during Dasara celebrations from October 15 to 24.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the IAF had conducted air shows at the Torchlight Parade Ground in Mysuru in 2017 and 2019. He also met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and discussed issues related to Karnataka.

He met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and urged him to take measures to avoid accidents on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway and provide entry and exit of bypasses and to facilitate roadside amenities on the expressway.

Tunnel road for Shiradi

Mr. Siddaramaiah submitted a proposal seeking the Centre's approval for a tunnel road to Shiradi Ghat connecting Bengaluru and Mangaluru cities, enhancing sanctions of original NH works to ₹10,000 crore during 2023-24, releasing ₹250 crore for flood damage repairs, enhancing repairs and maintenance grant to ₹50 crore, releasing of grants under the Central Road Infrastructure Funds of ₹1,000 crore for improving State and district major roads, sanctioning of five road over bridges and road under bridges in the existing level crossings of national highways and widening of lanes into 4 or 6 lanes connecting Kerala-Karnataka border to Kollegal via Gundlupet, Nanjangud, and Mysuru. Mr. Siddaramaiah has also submitted a proposal seeking widening of the four-lane road between Kanakapura and Karnataka/Tamil Nadu border via Malavalli and Kollegal.

A day after senior leaders and Ministers' meeting, Mr. Siddaramaiah called on AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and reportedly discussed political developments in the State.

CM meets PM Modi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Mr. Siddaramaiah met Mr. Modi in the Parliament complex. This is his first meeting with the Prime Minister since becoming the Chief Minister in May 2023.

"Met PMOIndia Shri Narendra Modi at Sansad Bhavan in New Delhi and discussed about various issues," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in a message on X (formerly Twitter). Several Karnataka leaders greeted Mr. Siddaramaiah on his 76th birthday on Thursday.

Centre urged to establish Science City in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister of Minor Irrigation, Science, and Technology N.S. Boseraju has appealed to the Union government to initiate steps to set up Vigyan Nagar (Science City) in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru is a science and technology hub, home to institutions such as IISc, JNCASR, and Raman Research Institute. The city also has over 400 research and development laboratories, as well as state-of-the art IT-BT parks, he noted.

In his request to the Union Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Development of the North Eastern States, G. Kishan Reddy, Mr. Boseraju said that sanctioning a new state-of-the-art Science City would contribute to the development of science and technology and would be of interest to students, technicians, and the public.

Mr. Boseraju urged Mr. Reddy to approve proposals to establish science centres in Raichur, Yadgir, and Chikkamagaluru. He stated that a detailed proposal on these has been sent to the Ministry of Culture.

"The Union Minister of Culture has assured me that he will take steps to get the proposal cleared at the earliest," Mr. Boseraju said.

Yogeshwar's petitions in megacity scam cases rejected

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has rejected petitions filed by former Minister C.P. Yogeshwar questioning the trial court's order of 2022 arraigning Megacity (Bangalore) Developers and Builders Ltd. in eight criminal cases registered against him for alleged corporate fraud, criminal conspiracy, forgery, and cheating related to the dealings of the company of which he was the managing director.

The allegation of misappropriation is also against the promoters and the directors of the company, who may be erstwhile. But without the company, the proceedings could not have gone on further, the High Court said, while holding that the trial court had rightly arraigned the company.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing eight petitions filed by Mr. Yogeshwar.

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) of the Ministry of Corporate Office, which had investigated the complaints from the customers, had launched prosecution against Mr. Yogeshwar, other directors, and others in 2012.

However, the SFIO in 2019 filed an application before the trial court to arraign the company as one of the accused in all the criminal cases while pointing out that it had due to oversight made only directors of the company accused but inadvertently left the name of the company as it is not a juristic person.

In the teeth of the law laid down by the apex court, company ought to have been made an accused as other accused, erstwhile managing director/promoter/directors cannot be prosecuted, the High Court said.

Charges against the petitioner and other accused are that of siphoning off several crores of rupees by cheating thousands of people who had paid money for sites in the company's Vajragiri Township project; forging of sale agreements to show that about ₹37 crore was paid to landowners, and using this money for personal matters.

Araga Jnanendra booked for comments on Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Following a complaint lodged by Rajiv Jane, Congress activist, the Ashoknagar police in Kalaburagi city on Thursday registered an FIR against BJP leader and MLA Araga Jnanendra for his objectionable comments on AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge.

He has been booked under Section 504 of IPC (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace).

At a protest at Thirthahalli in Shivamogga district on Tuesday opposing Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre's statement over Kasturirangan Committee Report, Mr. Jnanendra commented on Mr. Kharge's dark skin and Mr. Khandre's knowledge on forest and trees.

"It is our plight that those who become Forest Ministers are from that region [North Karnataka]. They know nothing about trees and plants. People there are blackened by sunburn. You will understand this if you see Mr. Kharge. He is protected to some extent because of his little hairs that cover his skull," Mr. Jnanendra said.

Chairman for State Police Complaints Authority named

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The former judge of the High Court of Karnataka N.K. Sudhindra Rao has been appointed as chairman of the Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority. The appointment has been in pursuance of Section 20C of the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2012, the GO stated.

Dialysis centre staff call off stir

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The protesting staff of 122 State-run dialysis centres called off their strike on Thursday following an assurance by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao that their arrears and other incentives will be cleared within a month.

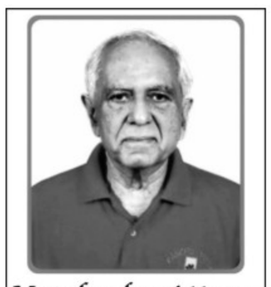
Demanding restoration of salaries, nearly 600 employees had started the indefinite protest on Wednesday.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through e-Procurement portal only)
KPCL invites online Tender through GoK e-procurement Website: **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in** from Individuals / Company and having past experience for the following works.
1). KPCL/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT263, Date:22.07.2023, Providing epoxy painting for aviation bands and premium acrylic emulsion paint to chimneys of Unit - 2,4,5,6 and 7 at RTPS. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 60.85 Lakhs.** Work Completion period : **06 months.**
2). KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT398, Date:28.07.2023, Shifting of existing CCTV setup at CISF Control Room to the new Control Room at RTPS.
Last date for submission of tender is on before **07.08.2023 at 11:00 Hrs.** for Sl. No. 1 & **11:30 Hrs.** for Sl. No. 2. Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (PCM-2),** Mobile No.: **94495 96594** (For Sl. No. 1) & **Executive Engineer (Safety)** Mobile No.: **94808 30634**(For Sl. No. 2), **RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar - 584170, Raichur District,** Website: **www.kpcl.karnataka.gov.in**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Manohardas Attavar
13.04.1933 - 01.08.2023
Deeply mourned by
daughter **Mrs Malavika S Vijay**, son-in-law **Dr Vijay Shanmugam**, daughter-in-law **Praphulla Arvind**, grandchildren & great-granddaughter.
Funeral on 04.08.2023 at 12 noon
Dr.Rajivi Towers, Purasaiwalkam
Contact No: **8754413777**

DEATH

OBITUARY

We deeply regret to inform the passing of
N Vittal IAS(Retd)
former Central Vigilance Commissioner,
Govt. of India
at **Chennai on 3rd August 2023.**
He personified dignity and integrity in public life.
He will be missed by family and friends.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission)

IFB No.	15/ F.WSS to SIPCOT/ DO (T5)/ CE/ CBE/ 2023/ Dated.02.08.2023.
Fund	Under Deposit Scheme
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (State Level)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.30, Siruvani Nagar, Bharathipark Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.
Downloading period	**09.08.2023 to 07.09.2023 upto 15.00 Hours**
Available website	E-Tendering website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
EMD Payable at	Online mode through e-tendering portal
Pre Bid meeting	**24.08.2023** at **11.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**07.09.2023** before **15.00** Hours Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**08.09.2023** at **15.30** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **https://tntenders.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. In Crore including GST @ 18%)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
1.	Providing 3.20 MLD Water Supply to SIPCOT industrial park at A.Sathanur in Ulundurpettai Taluk of Kallakurichi District by tapping from WSS to Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences (AIIRLIVAS) at Thalaivasal Koot road **(Construction period : 12 months, Trial Run : 6 months and Paid Maintenance : 12 months)**	55.72	42.00 (Through online only)

DIPR/ 4303 /TENDER/2023 — **Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Coimbatore.**
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS | "சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client intend to purchase a **BDA Site** from its lawful owners **1. Mr. Raghu M.K.** S/o. M.T. Krishnamurthy, Aged about 43 years. **2. Mr. Venkatesh M.K.** S/o M.T. Krishnamurthy, aged about 44 years, both are R/O. No.614, 4th Main, II Stage, 9th Block, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore-560072, as described in the Schedule hereunder, who have represented that they have got clear and marketable title to the same.

Any person/s, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claim any right. title, or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule property and/or have any objection of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting/original documents within **10 (ten) days** hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owners thereof subject to the compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

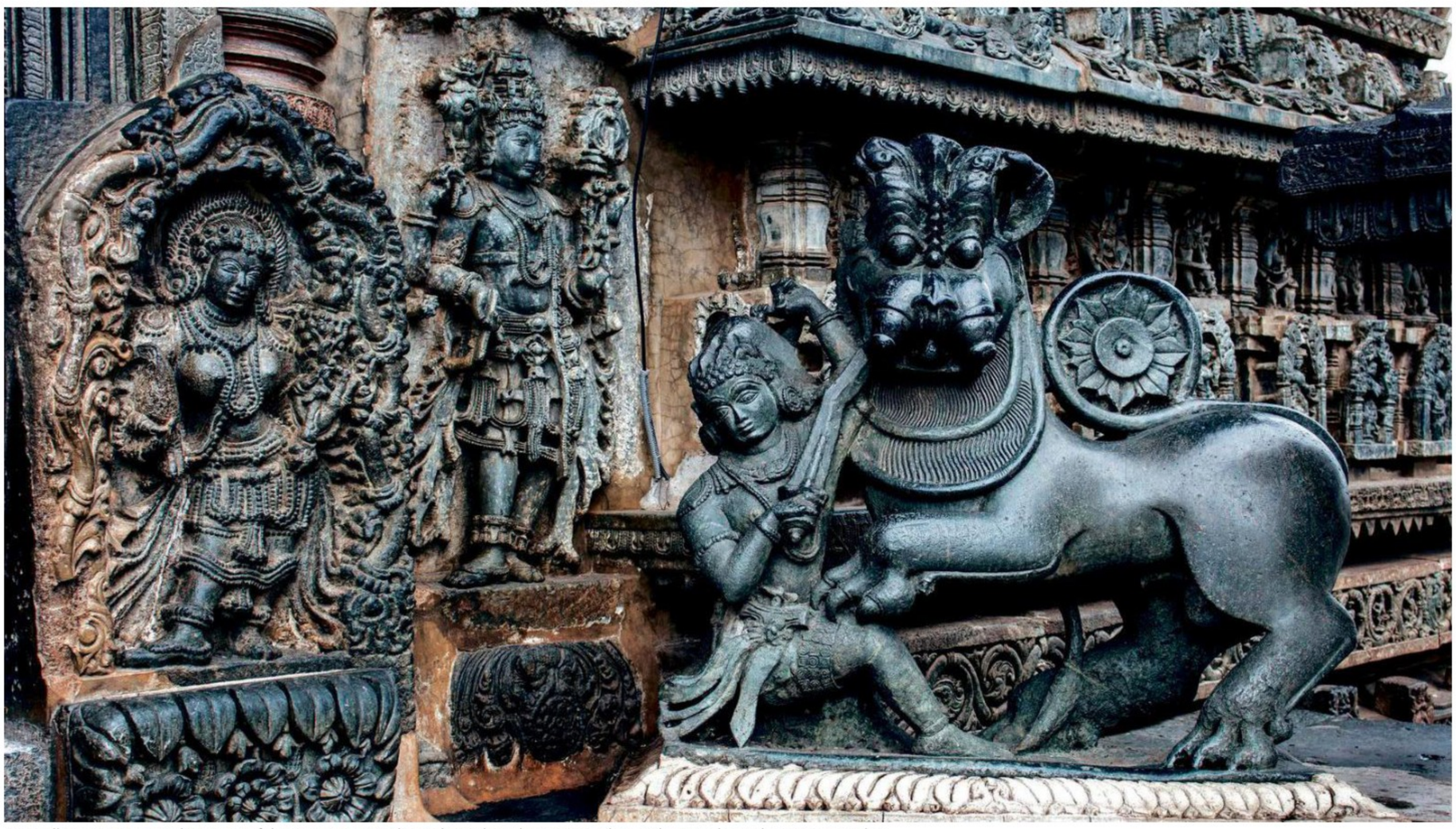
All that the piece & parcel of the BDA Site No.1563. formed in Sy. No.18 of Lingadheranahalli Village, IV Block, 6th Stage Banashankari, Bangalore- 560062 Measuring 202.50 Sq. Metre, bounded on
East By: Site 1562; West By: Road
North By: Site 1529; South By: Road
East to West 11.50+11.00 Mtrs, North to South 18.00 Mtrs totally measuring 202.50 SqMtrs.

Sd/- M/S P.M. PADMANABHA, ADVOCATE,
No.27/AS, I Cross, II Phase,III Stage, BSK,
B'lore-85, **Ph: 080- 26727189**
Bangalore
Dated:31-07-2023

When textile designs are set in stone

Writer and historian Dr. Chithra Madhavan will be in Bengaluru this weekend to give a talk on *Kanjivaram Motifs and its inspiration from temple architecture*

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU



Dr. Madhavan points out that many of the patterns on traditional saris have been inspired, over the ages, by sculptures in temples.

It is a habit that Dr. Chithra Madhavan abhors: the alacrity with which many Indians scrawl on ancient sculptures, often using permanent markers, to declare to the world that they visited a particular place or are in love with someone.

"They can go and scribble anywhere. Why do it on a 1000-year-old monument?" rues the Chennai-based historian and writer, adding that she blames this lackadaisical attitude on educational institutions and parents. "I have said this a million times, and I will say it a million more. Until we instill a sense of heritage in children at a very young age, we will not be able to do a thing about it," she believes. "Once that is there, it will last a lifetime," says Dr. Madhavan, who will be in the city on August 6 to deliver a lecture titled *Kanjivaram Motifs and its inspiration from temple architecture*.

Expanding on the talk, which is part of a handloom day celebration conducted by Maya, a Bengaluru-based brand that works with weaving clusters from Kanjeevaram and Arni, Dr. Madhavan points out that many of the patterns on traditional saris have been inspired, over the ages, by sculptures in temples. Take, for instance, the *hamsa* motif, which is common to both a lot of sculptures in South Indian temples as well as on Kanjivaram saris. "It is so evident because of the richness of the border. The pallus of the sarees are very elaborate so it really strikes you," she points out.

Another world

Dr. Madhavan's fascination for history started with the Indus Valley Civilization, learning about this iconic Bronze Age civilisation back in middle school. "Then, my family took me on a tour of South India," she says. "It was magic," she recalls, adding that after this encounter she knew exactly what she wanted to do with her life. "I wanted to focus on history and architecture and culture and inscriptions," says Dr. Madhavan, who went on to do exactly that, garnering an M.A. and M.Phil. from the Department of Indian History, University of Madras, and a Ph.D. from the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Mysore.

Drawing from her area of expertise–temple architecture, iconography, and, epigraphy–she has gone on to publish 9 books with another, a heritage book for children, on its way. It started with turning her PhD research into a book, she says, talking about her writing journey. "Then I got two post-doctoral fellowships, which again got published into books," she says, adding that these books were academic in nature.

The way to open children's minds to history is by exposing them early to monuments and archaeological sites, says Dr. Madhavan.

Since then, however, she has started writing books for regular people, hoping that it will help them "connect with our history, archaeology, architecture, and sculpture," says Dr. Madhavan. "It gives me a lot of happiness when people tell me that I read your article and went to this temple," she says. "It is not about religion," she says, adding it is more about heritage and historical importance. "They were once great cultural centres, with music and dance very much a part of the ethos of a temple."

Catching them young

Dr. Madhavan, who has been conducting heritage walks in Chennai for years, still remembers the 18-year boy, a second-year student, who attended her tour of the bronze gallery at the Madras Museum in Egmore.

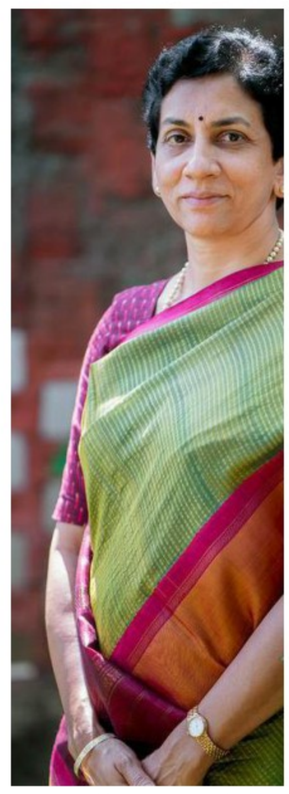
"I was so happy that I told everyone 'Look a young fellow has come'," she says. To her surprise, he turned around and told her that he has first joined a walk she had conducted when he was six years old. And though she wondered what he had understood back then, she realised that it must have made some impact "otherwise he wouldn't have turned up after 12 years."

History, unfortunately, is seen as staid and tedious by children and young adults, she points out. "I don't know how people have managed such a vibrant recorded history of over 5,000 years so boring," she says. "But they have succeeded. Children now hate history," says Dr. Madhavan, who firmly believes that it can be such a fun subject. The way to open children's minds to history, she believes, is by exposing them early to monuments and archaeological sites. "If they go and see how an archaeologist or conservationist works... even taking them to the museum, stopping at the important exhibits and telling them it is history and importance makes a huge difference," she says. 'It would be a voyage of discovery."

Early influences

Perhaps the best example of the positive impact of introducing young people to history and monuments early in life is Dr. Madhavan herself, who says that her early exposure to ancient South Indian temple architecture was life-changing.

Recalling some of her favourite heritage spots in the state, she says. "Hampi entered my mind early. I keep going back, and every time I do, feel like I am entering another world," she says. "For me it is a special place. So also, Belur, Halebeedu, and Somnathpur... Karnataka has done a lot for me."



Writer and historian Dr. Chithra Madhavan.

Handloom and the city: the must visits

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At Ragi Kana

To celebrate National Handloom Day, cultural hub Ragi Kana will be organising a symposium on handmade fabrics, with a focus on them providing an answer to an earth-friendly future. As part of this symposium, which will be held on August 6, at Ragi Kana Sante, handloom experts, designers, and activists, among others, will convene to converse about critical issues in the handloom weaver community and consumer responsibilities to this ecosystem.

In addition to these conversations, the celebration will also see the exhibition and sale of fabric, food items, books and handicrafts as well as a craft workshop focused on making items like keychains, friendship bands and lights. Meals and snacks will also be available at the venue.

Call 099726 76426 for more details.

At Lahe Lahe

Lahe Lahe Bengaluru will celebrate National Handloom Day with a special event, titled Showcase Your Handloom.

Comprising of a handloom talk, fashion walk, saree and, dhoti draping workshop as well as a sale of handloom and handicrafts, the event will be held at 5.30 pm on August 6 at Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar. The entry fee for the event is ₹200.

At Kaurwaki Styles

Bengaluru Utsava

Bengaluru Utsava - Arts, Crafts, Handlooms and Lifestyle Exhibition, a flea market offering a range of handicrafts, handlooms, home décor, furniture, jewellery and more will be held in the city between August 4 and 13 at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, between 11 am and 7 pm.

The exhibition is open to all.

A play around Salman Khan fandom

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

A scence from the play.

Salman Khanana Difficultiesu, a Kannada play by Vykhari Theatre, revolves around the life of a fangirl, her family, friends, and neighbours. The play tells the story of Rekha Rani, a teenager who is a big fan of Bollywood actor Salman Khan. Rekha is eager not to miss his film, but a crisis arises in her family, turning everything upside down. Amidst a turmoil of events, the play delves into whether the teenager will manage to watch the movie and how.

Directed by Surabhi Vasishta, the play is an adaptation of a short story from a book with the same title by M.S. Sriram, author and faculty at the Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB). The play stars a bunch of talented actors including Shashank Rajashekar, Aahan Gowda, Sushmita Rudresh and others.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Ms. Vasishta said, "We have all been through a lot since the pandemic. Most of my plays are very heavy, and I wanted to do a light and fun piece, wherein the audience could go back home with a smile on their faces."

"Sriram had given us the freedom to do more with the storyline, so we added a couple of more characters, which were devised over a period of two months."

"The play is set in Hyderabad, in 2010. To relate with the play and the characters, the actors took close to a month to recall and understand the economic status of the city, the fashion, and the style of language and communication teenagers spoke more than a decade ago," Ms. Vasishta added.

Salman Khanana Difficultiesu will be presented at Dr. C. Ashwath Kala Bhavana, N.R. Colony on August 6, at 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

An installation to talk about sustainability in waste management

Saahas was established in 2013 with the idea of promoting a holistic waste management system

Suhasini Sathyanarayan
BENGALURU

Signifying the importance of sustainability in waste management, employees of Saahas Zero Waste, a waste management social enterprise, set up an art installation using single-use plastics, plastic water bottles, paper packaging, old clothes, and electronic devices, at the Bangalore International Centre (BIC). The installation represented the waste materials collected by the company to make recycled products.

"We think of waste as waste, but it isn't. It's a resource," said Gauri Arora, a programme officer at Saahas Zero Waste. Saahas, for instance, uses paper waste to make recycled notebooks and packaging waste to make eco-boards, an alternative to plywood.

The installation was part of an event conducted by Saahas at BIC to mark its tenth anniversary.

Saahas uses paper waste to make recycled notebooks and packaging waste to make eco-boards, an alternative to plywood.

"Saahas has always focused on promoting a fraternity within waste management and has worked to create a circular economy that is focused on closing the loop," said Wilma Rodrigues, Founder and CEO.

"In the 21st century, we need to say 'planet and people above profits' because that's the kind of commitment required of us to get us out of this crisis," she added.

Saahas Zero Waste, an offshoot of Saahas, was established in 2013 with the idea of promoting a holistic waste management system with a business model.

It focuses on providing end-to-end zero waste management services to bulk generators

It focuses on providing end-to-end zero waste management services to bulk generators such as tech parks and residential communities, organising a framework of extended producer responsibility services for plastics and e-waste, and working with a range of self-help groups to make products from recycled and up-cycled materials.

With more than 100 clients over a decade, it has touched a revenue of ₹88 crores this year.

"We can look at Saahas to see how you can use business and capital to solve problems," said Amit Bhatia, a leading sustainability and impact specialist, in his keynote address.

"Purpose and profit can be driving forces that can change the demand and supply side for the better," he said.

In 10 years, Saahas Zero Waste has managed 1,50,530 metric tonnes of waste, out of which 59% was post-consumer waste, such as plastics. They also have a 98% landfill diversion rate.

According to the team, the company's upcoming projects would be focused on reducing consumption.

"We want to implement a swap-instead-of-shop model," said Ms. Rodrigues. "While we explore newer geographies and waste streams, we will continue to put the planet and people above profits. Our business model will focus equally on reducing waste as it does on gaining maximum recovery of resources from waste."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1973

Doctors for Villages Scheme: Poor Response

Bangalore, Aug. 3: Only 110 out of 400 unemployed doctors appointed by the Mysore Government to work in the rural areas had cared to report for duty.

Revealing this, Mr. H. Siddaveerappa, Health Minister, told pressmen to-day there were 700 unemployed doctors in the State. The number would increase when the "repealers" completed their courses.

The State Government had appointed the 400 doctors to work in the villages at the instance of the Centre, on a stipendiary basis. There was "stubborn resistance" on the part of the doctors to go to the rural areas, he said.

Mysore to Plead for Rs. 1,350 Cr. Fifth Plan

Bangalore, Aug. 3: Official-level discussions between the Planning Commission and the Mysore Government on the State's Fifth Plan are expected to take place in Delhi on August 24 and 25.

The plans of most of the Departments have been finalised and the final draft of the State's Plan is being sent to the Planning Commission shortly.

The State's official team is expected to plead for Rs. 1,350 crore plan. The feeling in Government circles is that a plan of that size is absolutely necessary to maintain the tempo of the developmental activities in the State.

However, the shape of the plan will be known only after the final round of discussions in September.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

Basavalingappa and 'busa' episode

In 1973, Karnataka Minister B. Basavalingappa, known for championing progressive laws to stop manual scavening and bonded labour, called Kannada literature "busa", meaning cattle fodder. This led to big protests. His comments were directed at contemporary Kannada literature, with hardly any representation of lower castes and oppressed sections.

The birth of Dalit Sangharsha Samiti

In 1974, Karnataka Dalit Sangharsha Samiti took shape in the State. Several writers, activists and artists felt the need for such an organisation to give representation to the voice for the downtrodden sections. Prof. B. Krishnappa and others started the organisation which influenced many Dalits to take up creative writing with a focus on the life and culture of these communities.

A convention of writers and artistes

In 1976 , a convention of Dalit Lekhaka and Kalavidaru (Dalit writers and artists) was held. This unique convention brought many people with similar ideological commitment under one banner. Samudaya, a theatre movement, also began at the same time. It involved artists and theatre personalities in the creative endeavour who came from all walks of life.

First Bandaya Sahitya Sammelana held

In 1979, the first Bandaya Sahitya Sammelana was held. With this, Kannada literature took a new dimension. Proponents of the Bandaya movement maintain that their literature is people-centric. This progressive and rebellious literary movement used prose and poetry to challenge socio-economic injustices and established norms.

Some key Dalit writers

Among the writers who brought Dalit sensibilities to Kannada literature are Devanur Mahadeva, Siddalingaiah, Kotaganahalli Ramaiah, L.Hanumanthaiah, K.B.Siddaiah, Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy and Aravind Malagatti, to name a few. There are many young writers and poets who have followed in their footsteps in recent years.

Bringing a slice of Dalit life on stage

Daklakatha Devi Kavya and We the People of India, directed by K.P. Lakshman, document the aspirations of Dalit communities

Daklakatha Devi Kavya is getting a good response from theatre lovers.

Sathish G. T.
SHIVMOGGA

Daklakatha Devi Kavya, one of the recent productions in Kannada theatre, tells the rarely heard tale of the little known community of Dakkaligas, a nomadic people. Based on K.B. Siddaiah's long narrative poem (khanda kavya), the play, directed by K.P. Lakshman, a graduate of the Intercultural Theatre Institute Singapore, received a good response across Karnataka and outside wherever it was staged. Among other places, it was staged at the International Theatre Festival of Kerala held in Thrissur earlier this year.

We the People of India - the play was staged in Hassan.

While the content is unique, so is the presentation of the theme in the play. Two lead characters appear on the stage playing tamate (hand drum) and are-vadya (urmi), instruments not too often seen on the stage of traditional theatre. At one point the lead woman character lights a beedi, again a gesture not commonly seen on traditional stage.

Invisible on stage

"I hardly see instruments like the tamate and are-vadya in the theatre productions. Seldom do I see female characters use swear words on stage. My plays have all that because they exist in life, especially among the subaltern classes," says Lakshman. Similarly, he questions the absence of references to non-vegetarian food in the plays. "Is it not part of our food culture? As with any other food, we celebrate eating meat on special occasions. It is part of our life and culture," he notes.

Lakshman's other production "We the People of India", written by Dr. Rajappa Dalwai, has a character who explains the fundamentals of the Indian Constitution by narrating how people in rural areas meticulously share meat after slaughtering an animal on special occasions.

Born into a poor Dalit family at Kachanahalli in Nelamangala taluk of Bengaluru Rural district, Lakshman grew up listening to folk stories and songs from his mother and other elders in the family. He took part in drama shows in school. However, his interest in theatre grew in 2008, when he attended a theatre workshop organised by a troupe - Bhoomi - in Tiptur in Tumakuru district.

Three meals a day

"I was very happy in the workshop because I was getting three meals a day there. Those days, at home, we rarely had three meals a day," he recalls. He got his diploma in mechanical engineering and joined a company. However, his passion for theatre compelled him to leave his job. He joined Neenasam at Heggodu in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga. He spent a year at the drama school. For a couple of years, he worked at Adima Cultural Centre in Kolar, where he acted in many plays and worked on building a repertory.

He travelled across the State as part of Neenasam Tirugata for a couple of years. Later, he joined the Intercultural Theatre Institute in Singapore, a reputed institute, in 2016. He associates the year he joined the institute with the death of Rohith Vemula, a Hyderabad Central University dalit student. The research scholar ended his life, leaving a death-note after he was suspended from the university.

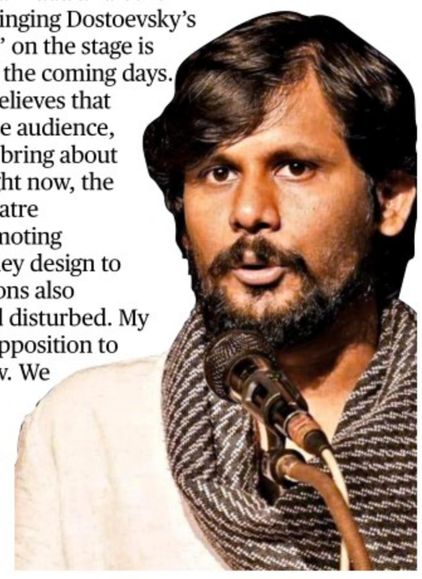
The years he spent in Singapore, where he was trained as an actor, took him to different places. He did many productions for different firms and organizations, including "We the People of India." "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's writing is a cultural pedagogy for me. He is my teacher. We have tried to convey the spirit of the Constitution through common language," he says.

Poetry of Siddaiah

Later, he picked up the poetry of K.B. Siddaiah, a dalit poet. "I was in Tumakuru city the day Siddaiah passed away. I attended his funeral. His friends, well-wishers, and those who read his poetry had gathered in large numbers. They were all singing his famous poem - Ee Naada Manninannli Manna Janara Kateya... The poem narrates the stories of atrocities committed against Dalits. It was a different experience for me. Until then, I had not read his poetry. I started to read, and his poems started to resonate with me. The process resulted in the play. Along with me, the actors too are all co-creators of this play," he states. Recently, Lakshman has worked on another play - 'Dweepa' - adaptation of Athol Fugard's 'The Island.'

Lakshman believes in the transformation that theatre can bring. "I know that theatre has the power to transform those involved in the production process as well as the audience. I look for new ways to reach to the people," he says. He has associated himself with the Jangama Collective, a group of young artistes. He intends to adapt great texts of Kannada and other languages to theatre. Bringing Dostoevsky's 'Crime and Punishment' on the stage is also one of his plans for the coming days.

Lakshman strongly believes that theatre can influence the audience, which has the power to bring about changes in politics. "Right now, the government-funded theatre productions are all promoting violence. The posters they design to promote their productions also celebrate violence. I feel disturbed. My two plays can register opposition to the trend prevailing now. We cannot bring about change in politics directly. But people can do it," he said.



Theatre director K. P. Lakshman.

Dakkaligas are among the most marginalised

In recent years, youngsters have started to engage themselves in selling plasticwares, brooms, and work in fields for daily wages

Sathish G. T.
SHIVMOGGA

Spread across a few districts in central Karnataka and a few places in north Karnataka, Dakkaligas are a small community. There are 462 families with a population of about 1,800, as per the private survey conducted by people of the community. A good number of families are in Tumakuru, Chikkaballapura, Chitradurga, Vijayanagara districts.

"There are hardly a few graduates and four government employees from our caste," says Shantharaju, president of Karnataka Dakkaligara Sangha. He stays at Chikkanayakanahalli in Tumakuru district and runs a tuition centre for students of the community.

The people of the community seek alms from Madiga community people, who are a Dalit 'left' caste. "Our families have been allotted places where we can seek alms. We are dependent on Madigas for our livelihood. When we go to their village, they provide us with food for a couple of days. And, in some places, they ask us not to enter their colony," said Shantaraj.

A majority of the people earn their living by seeking alms. In recent years, youngsters have started to engage themselves in selling plasticwares, brooms and work in fields for daily wages.

The community is one among the 101 castes listed under the Scheduled Caste. Only in recent years have they got any access to education. "There are four government employees in our community. Of them two are teachers and the other two are police constables," Shantaraj said.

Except for 15 families, none has land to cultivate. A few families in Tumakuru and Doddaballapura have got sites sanctioned to construct houses. However, the families are yet to own the sites due to technical issues in the Revenue Department.

The Dakkaliga community.

A.P. HC issues stay on construction of houses in Amaravati

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court issued a stay on the construction of houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the R-5 zone in Amaravati. A full Bench comprising Justices D.V.S.S. Somayajulu, Cheekati Manavendranath Roy and Ravinath Tilhari gave an interim order to that effect on Thursday.

They stated in the order that the question of inducting people from outside the district (Guntur) is a debatable issue and that modifications to the Amaravati master plan and the A.P. Metropolitan Region and Urban Development Authorities Act related to affordable housing plots is the subject matter of a judicial challenge.

Further, they said the A.P. Capital Region Development Authority has not complied with the relevant Land Pooling Scheme Rules and certain regulations related to the allotment of the land (in R-5 zone) to the Revenue Department.

Apart from that, the court observed that it cannot remain as a mute spectator to the spending of an enormous amount of public funds in a matter which is admittedly subject to the final outcome of the writ petitions/SLPs, and to the prospect of such spent money not being recouped.

Since all these require a full-fledged hearing and the right of the State to alter the plans/schemes etc. are inextricably linked to the rights of the farmers, a stay is in everybody's interest, the order said.

1,000 booked for protesting against Shamseer's remarks

Members of Nair Service Society organise prayer march against Kerala Speaker's 'blasphemous' remark on Hindu gods; case won't deter our resolve to defend faith, says outfit's vice-president

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Police have booked more than 1,000 Nair Service Society (NSS) members for holding a prayer procession on Wednesday in protest against Speaker A.N. Shamseer's allegedly 'blasphemous' remark on Hindu gods while speaking on science and religion at a school in Kannur last week.

The suspects in the unlawful assembly case include NSS vice-president M. Sangeeth Kumar.

Mr. Kumar said the police case against the peaceful procession would not deter NSS's resolve to defend faith.

The NSS would contest the charges in court, he said.

The NSS rank and file from 175 karayogams in Thiruvananthapuram taluk had mustered on short notice to take out a march on Wednesday evening.

The NSS also cast the "prayer procession" as a solemn criticism of the CPI (M)'s dismissal of the influential social organisation's demand for an apology from the Speaker.

The Congress and the BJP flayed the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government ensnaring NSS workers in police cases.

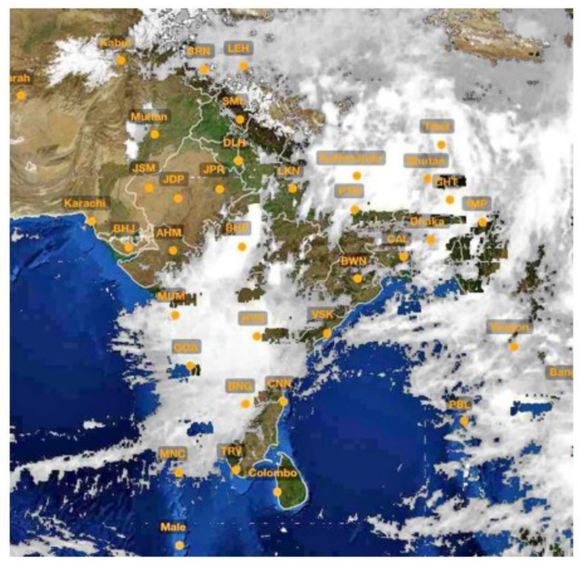
BJP State president K. Surendran said the government hoped to win over "religious fundamentalists" by prosecuting NSS members who stood up for their beliefs. Ideally, the government should prosecute Mr. Shamseer for hurting religious sentiments. Congress leader Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, MLA, said the government had exacerbated the sensitive situation by booking NSS volunteers for organising a composed prayer march.

Meanwhile, the CPI(M) continued to defend Mr. Shamseer. Former Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac said Mr. Shamseer had acted constitutionally.

Loud and clear: The BJP taking out a march protesting the police action against the Nair Service Society members. S. MAHINSHA

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3	31.3	26.0	Kozhikode	—	33.5	25.8
Ahmedabad	1	32.0	26.2	Kurnool	—	32.0	24.7
Aizawl	9	29.6	21.0	Lucknow	28	35.0	26.0
Allahabad	24.5	32.1	26.8	Madurai	—	41.6	25.8
Bengaluru	—	28.7	20.2	Mangaluru	6.8	29.0	25.0
Bhopal	9.6	—	24.0	Mumbai	1	30.8	26.8
Bhubaneswar	—	32.2	24.1	Mysuru	—	30.9	22.6
Chandigarh	1	35.8	27.2	New Delhi	13	35.0	25.2
Chennai	—	38.1	29.5	Patna	1	32.2	26.6
Coimbatore	—	34.4	23.6	Port Blair	0.4	30.8	27.2
Dehradun	2	34.6	24.2	Puducherry	—	38.6	27.6
Gangtok	55	21.1	18.8	Pune	2.8	28.3	22.3
Goa	4	30.6	24.0	Raipur	83	26.2	24.2
Guwahati	3	33.6	26.0	Ranchi	49	24.4	22.2
Hubballi	—	27.0	23.0	Shillong	0.2	25.4	18.8
Hyderabad	—	29.1	23.5	Shimla	0.9	24.8	17.4
Imphal	0.2	28.9	22.1	Srinagar	—	31.5	19.1
Jaipur	—	32.7	25.5	Thiruvananthapuram	0.1	33.0	25.2
Kochi	0.4	30.4	26.4	Tiruchi	—	38.5	27.0
Kohima	17	28.0	19.4	Vijayawada	—	35.0	28.0
Kolkata	2	34.5	26.6	Visakhapatnam	0.1	34.6	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.25	.36	.40	61	97	
Bengaluru	.11	.12	105	32	48	
Chennai	3	104	.62	88	81	
Delhi	.24	.29	.38	45	113	
Hyderabad	.11	9	.39	57	84	
Kolkata	.16	.13	.21	23	31	
Lucknow	2	.27	.46	31	42	
Mumbai	.34	6	107	35	48	
Pune	133	222	109	51	46	
Visakhapatnam	.15	.33	.15	46	100	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Pali, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 238 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'It's high time courts are bestowed supervisory jurisdiction on media'

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It is high time courts are required to bestow their supervisory jurisdiction on print and electronic media as well, when occasions demand, the Karnataka High Court has said. Stating that persons who handle print and electronic media are "required to show utmost restraint in using unparliamentary or defamatory words while reporting news", the court said: "It is expected that people who are managing the print and electronic media, editors/chief editors bestow their best attention in achieving the said object."

Justice V. Srishananda made these observations while quashing the criminal proceedings initiated against the editors of four Kannada newspapers in 2012 based on a complaint by an advocate.

The court quashed the proceedings after the petitioner-editors tendered an unconditional apology along with an undertaking that they would exercise necessary restraint while preparing news item/s so as to not to harm the dignity of all concerned, and maintain prudent attitude while reporting news.

Davalsab Nadaf, Gadag-based advocate, had filed the defamation case before the magistrate court in Gadag against four newspapers for publishing defamatory words while reporting the statements made by a member of the Legislative Assembly on the incident of violence on the premises of Bengaluru city civil and sessions court complex in 2012 following clashes between advocates, media personnel, and the police.

The petitioner-editors had moved the High Court against the proceedings in the magistrate court.

The High Court said that the journalists and print and electronic media cater to the needs of the general public and they owe a social responsibility to maintain peace and tranquillity; and such reports published in the media are required to be strictly in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India (PCI).

"The words used by the four newspapers in their reports are *per se* intolerable and beyond the scope of the guidelines issued by the PCI," the High Court said.

"It is often said that the print and electronic media/journalists form Forth Pillar of the democracy. If they claim so, they should work and act in that regard with utmost care and caution. Publication of news item has got wide implication on society at large," Justice Srishananda observed.

Families of last year's 151 organ donors felicitated on Indian Organ Donation Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Recognising the selfless contribution of the 151 donor families whose compassion gave a new lease of life to several patients with organ failure last year, the State Health Department and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) on Thursday, felicitated them on the occasion of Indian Organ Donation Day.

Puneet Rajkumar's wife Ashwini and Minister of Food and Civil Supplies Dinesh Gundu Rao felicitating the families of organ donors in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The donor families were felicitated by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, wife of the late actor Puneeth Rajkumar. August 3 is observed as Indian Organ Donation Day to commemorate the first successful deceased heart transplant in India in 1994 after the promulgation of The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994.

Speaking on the occasion, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said it is essential to spread awareness about brain death, deceased organ donation and control illegal practices related to organ transplantation. "There are several myths and misconceptions surrounding organ donation. We have involved religious heads in our campaign to bust such misconceptions," he said.

Asserting that giving consent for organ donation by families – when their near and dear ones are declared brain dead – is not an easy task, the Minister said the society owes a debt to the donor families. "The specific objectives of this year's organ donation campaign will include measures to reduce the demand for organ transplantation by promoting a healthy lifestyle and wellness," he said, adding that infrastructure for donation and transportation will also be augmented.

Heads of two Non-Transplant Human Organ Retrieval Centres (NTHORCs), whose efforts resulted in organ donations from their centres last year, and organ donors and recipients from Karnataka who participated in the World Transplant Games were also honoured.

Religious heads of various faiths spoke on the religious misconceptions surrounding organ donation.

Kochi police take 4 Karnataka counterparts into custody

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kochi city police have taken into custody four of their Karnataka counterparts on a complaint that they had allegedly taken money in return for releasing two youth within Kochi limits.

The Karnataka Police officers taken into custody are identified as inspector Shivaprakash, and constables Shivanna, Vijayakumar, and Sandesh. These officials have been released after serving them with notice under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

A car carrying the four Karnataka policemen and the two youth was intercepted near Nedumbassery on Wednesday. Besides, ₹3.96 lakh was also recovered from the vehicle.

They have been released with a directive to appear before the city police on August 16. This was done based on a legal opinion.

The city police had initiated the action based on a complaint lodged by a woman with Deputy Commissioner of Police S. Sasidharan. She had telephonic conversation with one of the youth in the custody of the Karnataka Police. She also alleged that the accused had taken away a car as well.

At the time of the complaint, the Kochi city police were not even sure about the credentials of the accused who had picked up the youth hailing from Palluruthy. The accused police failed to give a clear explanation about the money found in the car.

One of the youth in their custody claimed that the policemen initially demanded ₹25 lakh for their release and later scaled it down to ₹10 lakh.

Reportedly, the Karnataka Police officers were probing a case registered at a police station in Whitefield, Bengaluru, relating to a cheating incident. They picked up the youth regarding the case. It was an online fraud case in which ₹1,030 is promised to be given for every ₹1,000 invested. The money thus obtained was allegedly transacted through cryptocurrency and the Karnataka Police were probing it.

Moral policing: Four men assault autorickshaw driver

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

In yet another moral policing incident in the coastal belt, four men allegedly assaulted an autorickshaw driver, from the Muslim community, who was returning to Ujire after dropping a passenger, who is a woman from another community, at the KSRTC bus stand in Dharmasthala on Wednesday night.

In the complaint to Dharmasthala police, the driver, Mohammed Ashiq, said a woman hired his autorickshaw to travel from Ujire to Dharmasthala on Wednesday night. When he was returning after dropping the woman near Dharmasthala KSRTC bus stand, four men allegedly stopped his autorickshaw near Dharmasthala.

He was allegedly dragged out of the autorickshaw and abused for taking a woman from another community to Dharmasthala. They allegedly assaulted him before leaving the place. Ashiq is undergoing treatment at the Government Hospital in Belthangady, the police said. Based on his compliant, the Dharmasthala police registered a case under Sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC. The police are questioning some people.

The moral policing incident in Dharmasthala is the fourth one reported in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts in the last seven days, and the seventh incident reported since the formation of the Congress government in May. It is the ninth incident reported in the undivided Dakshina Kannada so far in 2023. DK district in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao went on record in Mangaluru on August 1 that communal forces were engaging in moral policing to tarnish the image of the Congress government.

Stop off-road safari in Kolukkumalai: Kerala HC panel

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

After recommending suspension of boating at Anayirankal, a panel of wildlife experts constituted by the Kerala High Court has recommended stopping the off-road jeep safari on the Suryanelli-Kolukkumalai route, near Chinnakkanal, at Munnar in Idukki.

According to sources, the panel report stated that off-road tourism has become rampant on the Suryanelli-Kolukkumalai stretch with about 140 vehicles traversing the region per day. This was creating ecological imbalance, including the introduction of invasive species, soil erosion, and hindrance to local wildlife. "Immediate orders to stop the activity may be issued," said the report.

Main attractions

Kolukkumalai is situated around 15 km from Suryanelli town and is about 8,000 feet above sea level. Watching the sunrise from the hills is a major attraction of the tourist destination. The highest tea plantation is also located at Kolukkumalai.

According to sources, the frequenting of off-road vehicles on the stretch would create large-scale soil erosion and result in major landslips. "In addition, many endemic species are found on the route and off-road tourism will destroy them," said the source.

The committee also recommended action against the tent camping at Chinnakkanal. "It is understood that licence has not been given for erecting tents for tourism purposes here and that the Collector has ordered the removal of such tents. If necessary, orders should be given to the District Police Chief, Idukki, to ensure that such tents are removed," said the report.

Beyond limits: View of Suryanelli-Kolukkumalai off-road jeep safari near Chinnakkanal in Munnar. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

Meanwhile, Idukki District Tourism Promotion Council secretary Jitheesh Jose said they hoped that the court would hear their version before suspending the off-road safari in Kolukkumala.

"On certain days around 1,000 tourists use the Kolukkumalai safari. The charge fixed for the trip is ₹2,500 for six people. The Kolukumalai development agency will get ₹200 for each trip. The DTPC will get ₹40 for each trip from the agency. Every three months Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) officials inspect the vehicles," said the official.

The hydel tourism wing under the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) stopped operating boats in the Anayirankal dam, near Chinnakkanal, on July 14 based on a directive of the Kerala High Court.

The HC-appointed expert committee recommended that boating caused disturbances to wild elephants.

Making a riot

The state must remain impartial in situations of communal conflict

At a time when the tremors of ethnic clashes in Manipur have not yet settled, communal clashes in Haryana, in regions abutting the national capital, claimed six lives this week. Two Home Guards and four civilians were killed and 70 injured in clashes in Gurugram, Sohna and Nuh. Property worth crores has been destroyed, and hundreds have fled their workplaces. The trigger for the mayhem, when local Muslims pelted stones at a Hindu religious procession on July 31 in Nuh, was in the making for a long time. The day-long yatra between two temples in this Muslim-majority district used to be a local affair and has been held without incidents. But in recent years, the yatra has become a political event, with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad mobilising participants from neighbouring Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. In the procession this year, participants raised slogans and carried firearms and other weapons, according to reports. Facing attack, the pilgrims returned to the first temple and had to wait until police reinforcements arrived from neighbouring districts. The administration was caught off-guard and unprepared. Following the violence, 176 people have been arrested and 93 FIRs registered. The Haryana Chief Minister, M.L. Khattar, has said the violence was premeditated – it appears to be so.

Tension had been building up for days, beginning with a Bajrang Dal member and self-styled cow vigilante uploading videos on social media platforms, announcing that he and his team would be part of the yatra this year. The fresh threats from a person who is accused in the kidnapping and murder of two Muslim youth from Rajasthan's Bharatpur in February this year, evoked strong resentment among the Muslim population. Local social and political leaders had alerted the administration that there could be violence. On the day of the yatra, another Bajrang Dal activist uploaded videos that used provocative language, asking Nuh's residents to be prepared for their arrival. The violence spread to the Sohna sub-division of Gurugram; a mosque was also vandalised. An Imam at the Anjuman Jama Masjid in Sector 57 was killed by an armed mob around midnight on Monday, a staff member seriously injured, and the shrine set ablaze. The police at the mosque, who were outnumbered by the rioters, remained mute spectators. Policing in Haryana has been shown up to be inadequate in the face of communal incitement by groups associated with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. The Haryana administration must take strict action against the perpetrators of the violence, and be vigilant and impartial to ensure peace.

Strike three

The U.S. is witnessing extreme levels of political polarisation of the electorate

After facing prior charges relating to hush money paid to cover up an affair and the illegal retention of top-secret documents, former U.S. President Donald Trump has been indicted for the third time. The most recent felony charges stem from allegations that he sought to block the peaceful transfer of power by seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, which current President Joe Biden won. The four charges at this juncture include conspiracy to defraud, witness tampering, conspiracy against the rights of citizens, and obstruction of and attempt to obstruct an official proceeding. The obstruction charges relate to the actions of Mr. Trump on January 6, 2021, when he is alleged to have incited a violent mob to march on the Capitol buildings in Washington even as lawmakers were meeting there to certify the election results, as required by law. The mob broke barricades and vandalised Congressional offices and property, injuring at least 140 law enforcement officers. A wide-ranging Justice Department investigation has led to the arrest and prosecution of more than 1,000 people said to be involved in one of the worst attacks on the very heart of U.S. democracy. Beyond the charges in the most recent indictment, Mr. Trump is also likely to be slapped with charges in the State of Georgia this month, relating to his attempts, in concert with allies, to overturn his 2020 election loss there.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Trump has denounced the indictment as evidence of the "corruption, scandal, and failure" of the Biden White House, and his lawyers have attacked it as being the "first time that the First Amendment has been criminalised". U.S. politics is already shifting gear as it enters the deep end of the 2024 presidential election cycle. Mr. Trump leads by a significant margin the cohort of at least 14 Republican candidates seeking their party's nomination for the election. Some legal experts say that even if he is found guilty in one or more of the indictment cases, there is nothing in the U.S. constitution that bars him from contesting the 2024 election. This could lead to the unprecedented situation of the U.S. being led by a convicted President, or a President who governs from prison, if not a President who takes office and then has all of his convictions dismissed. The bizarreness of this scenario is only exceeded by the extreme levels of political polarisation of the U.S. electorate across the liberal-conservative spectrum on a variety of critical issues including the role of the government in the economy, reproductive and civil rights, immigration, foreign policy and much more. Unless bipartisanship somehow gains a foothold in this deeply conflicted polity, there is a real risk that U.S. exceptionalism may soon be a thing of the past.

Nuclear signalling, the need for new guard rails

Rakesh Sood

is a former diplomat who served as India's first Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and also as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation in 2013-14

The conflict in Ukraine and the recourse to nuclear rhetoric have revived concerns about nuclear escalation management between the major nuclear powers. Since the end of the Cold War, the United States-Russia nuclear rivalry had taken a back seat. Instead, North Korea, Iran and India-Pakistan got attention, with many analysts getting nostalgic about 'nuclear stability' during the Cold War. But, as it is becoming clear now, in today's changed political environment the escalation management lessons of the Cold War no longer seem to work for the U.S. and Russia.

Deterrence failure

In June 2021, U.S. and Russian Presidents, Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin, met in Geneva. Nuclear arms control was a high priority item on the agenda but no progress proved possible. As concerns grew about the Russian troop presence in Belarus on the Ukrainian border, Central Intelligence Agency Director Bill Burns flew to Moscow in November to spell out the consequences of aggression. In January 2022, U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva to reiterate the message. On February 24, Russia began its "special military operation" in Ukraine. U.S. attempts to deter Russian aggression had failed.

Even as North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) leaders met to decide their response, Mr. Biden made it clear that the U.S. was determined to avoid a Third World War or allowing the conflict to escalate into a NATO-Russia conflict. After the freezing of Russian reserves and a slew of financial, energy-related and political sanctions, other elements of military assistance, lethal and non-lethal, began to take shape. Intelligence sharing and restoring Internet connectivity was the first step. The second was the supply of ammunition and some weapon systems which the Ukrainian forces were familiar with. NATO deepened its military involvement by providing gradually more and more sophisticated weapon systems, beginning with the Javelin and Stinger missiles, and moving on to Patriot missile defence batteries, long-range Himars, Storm Shadow and Scalp long-range missiles, and now F-16s. Russian attempts to deter NATO involvement had failed.

On February 7, 2022, Mr. Putin warned that "if Ukraine attempts to take back Crimea, European countries will be in conflict with Russia, which is a leading nuclear power superior to many NATO countries in terms of nuclear force". Annual nuclear exercises, normally scheduled for autumn, were announced for February 17, with Mr. Putin personally witnessing them. Announcing the launch of "special military operations", his words of caution were, "whoever tries to hinder Russia will face consequences never seen in history". To drive home the threat, on February 27, Russian nuclear forces were placed on a "special combat readiness" with leave for all personnel cancelled.

> In today's changed political environment, the escalation management lessons of the Cold War no longer seem to work for the United States and Russia

Even as the U.S. issued blunt warnings to Russia against using tactical nuclear weapons, in the first week of March, NATO decided against a no-fly-zone and Poland, Slovakia and Bulgaria announced that they would not be sending MiG aircraft to Ukraine on account of Russian threats against their airfields from where these aircraft were to take off. Russian officials tried to downplay the nuclear threat by pointing out that Russia would resort to nuclear use only if faced with an existential threat, while U.S. officials tried to convey reassurance to their European allies that while Mr. Putin's threats were to be taken seriously, there were no indications of unusual activity at nuclear sites.

Mr. Biden declared on April 24, "We are neither encouraging nor enabling Ukraine to strike beyond its borders," adding that the "U.S. was not seeking regime change in Russia." In short, the U.S. objectives were to support Ukraine, bolster NATO unity and avoid any direct conflict with Russia. Ukraine is not a NATO member and so does not have the security of the nuclear umbrella provided by U.S. policy of 'extended deterrence'. Russia's resort to nuclear rhetoric failed to deter NATO involvement though it influenced its pace and timing. Therefore, both Russia and the U.S. are operating in a grey zone, taking turns at escalatory rhetoric even as they probe each other's red lines. During the Cold War, the U.S. and the former Soviet Union engaged in multiple proxy wars, Vietnam in the 1960s and Afghanistan in the 1980s, but these were in distant theatres.

Cold War lessons

Deterrence is fundamentally based on the assumption that both adversaries are rational enough to judge when costs outweigh the benefits of the act. Nuclear deterrence adds a conundrum. With their huge arsenals that provided for assured second strike capability, neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union had an incentive to try a surprise first strike. This realisation was crucial in shaping nuclear deterrence theory.

Thomas Schelling, whose writings during the 1960s and 1970s shaped nuclear deterrence thinking (he won the Economics Nobel in 2005), concluded that nuclear weapons were not usable but had political utility in terms of preventing a war with another nuclear power. Clearly, Schelling was looking at the situation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union which had no territorial dispute. Schelling also concluded that even though any use was "irrational", the nuclear threat had to be "credible" in order to deter. This introduced a degree of uncertainty into the equation. Using his economics training, he interpreted the uncertainty as risk that could be analysed in terms of probabilities. Risk was intended to induce rationality in the adversaries. Realising the conundrum, he concluded that the key to making nuclear deterrence credible is through escalation and raising the risk, that in the final analysis, "leaves something to chance".

This, along with the lessons of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis kept the U.S. and Soviet rhetoric in check during the Cold War even as they engaged in proxy wars outside Europe, and away from NATO and Warsaw pact territories. Today, there is no Warsaw Pact, and NATO has expanded to include a number of former Warsaw Pact members. The Ukraine conflict has persuaded Sweden and Finland to give up their long-standing neutrality and seek security under NATO's nuclear umbrella.

Probing for red lines

Russia's nuclear doctrine issued on June 2, 2020 specifies two conditions under which Russia would use nuclear weapons: "...in response to the use of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction against it/or its allies" and "in the case of aggression against the Russian Federation with the use of conventional weapons, when the very existence of the state is put under threat". Mr. Putin has declared more than once that Ukrainians and Russians are one people with a shared history. Russia, therefore, does not see Ukraine as entirely 'sovereign'.

Second, there is the oft-cited escalate-to-deescalate approach, that implies using tactical nuclear weapons to overcome a stalemate on the battlefield, thus forcing a termination of hostilities on favourable terms. In its 2022 National Security Strategy, the U.S. rejected this by declaring that first use would not lead to de-escalation on Russian terms, "but alter the nature of conflict creating potential for uncontrolled escalation".

U.S. caution is reflected in calibrating the supply of more sophisticated weapons by continuously probing Russian red lines even though Ukrainian demands continue to grow. Meanwhile, it suits Russia to increase ambiguity. It is also likely that since Russia failed to achieve its military objectives, its thresholds are evolving.

The path-breaking studies of Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky in economics showed that humans often tend to double down on bad bets because of 'loss aversion'. The Cold War escalation management lessons applied to a different world; today, the U.S. and Russia no longer enjoy parity and Russia's red lines are fuzzy.

Nuclear signalling today is taking place in uncharted political territory. New guard rails are necessary if the nuclear taboo has to be preserved.

India needs evidence-based, ethics-driven medicine

Siddhesh Zadey

is a cofounder of the non-profit think-and-do tank Association for Socially Applicable Research (ASAR) India

Lokesh Krishna

is a physician and public health researcher, specialising in community medicine

The recent push to integrate 'AYUSH' medicinal systems into mainstream health care to achieve universal health coverage and 'decolonise medicine' is a pluralistic approach that would require every participating system to meet basic safety and efficacy standards. Homoeopathy does not meet these standards. But its supporters have argued in *The Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia* recently for expanding its use by citing demand and decolonisation, disregarding its flaws.

Efficacy and safety of homoeopathy

Evidence on homoeopathy's efficacy is weak. The first carefully conducted and well-reported double-blind randomised controlled trial (RCT), the Nuremberg Salt Test (1835), noted that "the symptoms or changes which the homeopaths claimed to observe as an effect of their medicines were the fruit of imagination, self-deception and preconceived opinion – if not fraud."

In the evidence-based medicine ladder, the topmost rung is systematic reviews and meta-analyses that exhaustively pool and critically appraise evidence from existing studies. Multiple systematic reviews and meta-analyses have found that, across ailments, population groups (adults versus children), study types (placebo-controlled versus other trial types), and treatment regimes (individualised versus non-individualised), homoeopathic treatments lack clinically significant effects. Reviews that somewhat support homoeopathy's efficacy also caution over the low evidence quality and raise concerns about its clinical use.

Recently, researchers demonstrated that more than half of the 193 homoeopathic trials in the last two decades were not registered. Unregistered trials showed some evidence of efficacy but registered trials did not. There was reporting bias and other problematic practices, throwing the validity and reliability of evidence thus generated into doubt.

Further, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned against homoeopathic treatments for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, as well as flu and diarrhoea in infants, saying it has "no place" in their treatment. Evidence is accumulating that homoeopathy does not work for cancers and may not help to reduce the adverse effects of cancer treatments, contrary to lay belief. Instead, treatments have been linked to both non-fatal and fatal adverse events as well as their aggravation. Seeking homoeopathic care also delays the application of evidence-based clinical care. In several cases, it has caused injuries and sometimes death.

> The argument to reject homoeopathy is not just based on its coloniality but chiefly on the lack of evidence for efficacy

On standards

Homoeopathy's supporters argue that the standards commonly used in evidence-based medicine are not suitable for judging the "holistic effects" of homoeopathy. This claim can be debunked.

First, the standards are not conveniently chosen by practitioners of allopathic medicine for themselves. RCTs and other methods for collecting and assessing evidence are collaboratively set and updated by a global community pushing for evidence-based medicine that includes epidemiologists, biostatisticians, quality improvement researchers, implementation managers, and several others, beyond clinicians. These methods have weeded out practices in allopathic medicine that failed to meet the evidence criteria. Further, multiple disciplines such as psychology, economics, community health, implementation science, and public policy, beyond medicine have successfully adapted evidence synthesis methods to establish their claims.

Second, what are the methods that will work? Homoeopathy advocates have failed to invent valid alternative evidence synthesis frameworks suited for testing its efficacy and safety, which are also acceptable to the critics.

Third, the claim about homoeopathy being holistic is typically paired with evidence-based medicine being "reductionist". In 2023, most exponents of evidence-based medicine are aware and accepting of biopsychosocial approaches toward health endorsed by WHO – predominantly composed of evidence-based medicine practitioners and supporters.

Fourth, evidence-based medicine does not and should not stop at establishing empirical evidence. The quest is also to discover and explain the mechanisms underlying the evidence. In the last century, there has been no concrete evidence for proposed mechanisms of action for homoeopathy. No mechanistic (molecular, physiological, biochemical, or otherwise) evidence to explain how concepts such as "like cures like", "extreme dilution", and "dematerialised spiritual force" result in better health. In the same period, several allopathic/modern medicine practices have updated themselves based on growing scientific evidence.

Adopting a pluralistic approach in medicine can decolonise medicine. In India, homoeopathy is at odds with this. Homoeopathy was introduced in 1839 in India by Austrian physician J.M. Honigberger. While defining traditional medicine can be subjective, homoeopathy was introduced quite recently in India's history during the colonial period for colonial benefit. Hence, its traditional tag is untenable. Of course, not all colonial-era practices need to be surrendered. Those with health and developmental benefits such as evidence-based elements of allopathic medicine and gender role and caste reforms should be retained.

The argument to reject homoeopathy is not just based on its coloniality, but chiefly on the lack of evidence for efficacy, some evidence for lack of safety, no substantive progress on mechanisms of action in the last century, and homoeopathic practitioners' escapist arguments.

Homoeopathy's supporters offer testimonials from luminaries such as Gandhi and Tagore. But Gandhi's writings have scant mentions. We could not find any archival evidence of favourable comments by Tagore. Hence, decolonisation cannot be a reason to support homoeopathy.

India's path to universal health care must be grounded in evidence-based and ethics-driven medicine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Growing hate

The atmosphere of hate over the last nine years seems to be travelling much faster than light and the government appears to be only adding more fuel to the fire. The developments in Haryana show the kind of hatred that has been injected in the name of religion. There needs to be strong action to end hate slogans and provocative speech before things go out of control.

N. Nagarajan,
Secunderabad

The real magnitude of physical, emotional and financial hardships that come along with clashes, whether in Manipur or in Haryana, is colossal. It is a matter of concern that engineered violence by vested interests in various forms is being unleashed on vulnerable citizens at will. It is unfortunate that the government, especially of the 'double engine' type, which has almost all the powers and resources to prevent such violence, transforms itself into a powerless witness most of the time. It is time for enlightened minds to independently come up with preventive strategies.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

It is disturbing to have political parties sharpening the communal divide. What people long for is a viable livelihood. Political parties must focus on development instead of communal issues.

A.G. Rajmohan,
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

Letters must carry the full postal address.

Should the age of consent be revised in India?

Shraddha Chaudhary

is PhD Researcher, Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge and Lecturer, Jindal Global Law School

PARLEY

Recently, while hearing an appeal by a man who was sentenced to 10 years in prison for maintaining a consensual relationship with a minor girl, the Bombay High Court said that it is high time India considered reducing the age of consent for sex. The court pointed out that after the enactment of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, many adolescents are being prosecuted for consensual relationships with minor girls. Should the age of consent be revised in India? Bharti Ali and Shraddha Chaudhary discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Abhinay Lakshman**. Edited excerpts:

Bharti Ali

is Co-founder and Executive Director of the HAQ Centre for Child Rights

There are multiple perspectives in this debate – for instance, the psychological and biological perspectives that deal with the ability to give consent and the perspective on exercising autonomy. How should the debate in India be centred?

Shraddha Chaudhary: We shouldn't think of the debate in one or another of these terms. We need to take an integrated and holistic approach. You mentioned autonomy in the context of law. But can we define what autonomy really signifies? And what it means without considering things like cognitive capacity, psycho-social maturity, and emotional development? So, we need a lot more axes in this debate. We need to think of experiential and neurobiological factors. Even economic factors might be relevant. It is most important to keep the discussion practical, in terms of what it is that we're trying to achieve.

Bharti Ali: We want to protect children from harm. But we can't protect them by criminalising certain activities. While we understand the need to ensure that every child up to the age of 18 years should be entitled to all rights, including the right to be protected from harm, the fact is that children have evolving capacities which need to be recognised.

SC: Often, the criminalising approach of the law, especially if you look at the POCSO Act, also prevents us from having a more holistic discussion on the subject. The moment you come to know about any instance, you have to report it. So, not only can you not help the adolescent in case they need help, whether it's psychological or mental social support, but you also can't study trends. So, a lot of the discussions that we're having now are either anecdotal, or based on evidence from other countries. And that completely misses the cultural context of India, which is so important.

We often see in POCSO cases that a trial is held and then the court rules whether the sexual interaction was consensual or not. Can we figure out a way of measuring consent before it becomes a trial?

The Bombay High Court. PAUL NORONHA

BA: As Shraddha said, whenever adolescents approach service providers for any intervention, the biggest fear is that it will get reported. Now, even if schools, hospitals, and counsellors were to report these cases, are we saying that the law must make it mandatory for every person to pursue a legal case? Can you force me to file a legal complaint if I am not interested in filing a legal complaint? That's an important question.

Soon after a report is made, interviews with the boy and girl should not be carried out by the police. The first interview should be done by a social worker or a support person, and we have those provisions in law. There are supposed to be two social workers with every special juvenile police unit. These are people who can be brought in to interview and interact with the child or the adolescent and ascertain whether they wish to pursue a complaint or not. Whether there has been consensual sexual activity and whether that consensual intimacy was exploitative or non-exploitative are factors that they can be asked to ascertain at that point. But unfortunately, we have given them the mandate [to ask questions] only after an FIR is filed. Much of the evidence tells us that in many cases, the girls turn hostile in court, and these cases end up in acquittals. So, why are we forcing them to pursue the legal complaint and also burdening our courts?

At some level, the state is making a decision as to when or at what age a person can be competent enough to give consent. This is despite biology showing that this capacity develops differently among different people.

SC: You're right in saying that for ease of convenience, we might have to indicate some sort of age or draw some line. And no matter where we draw the line, there are probably going to be issues because there are some people who won't be covered by it and in some instances, too many people will be covered by it. But regardless, that is a strong case for reconfiguring the age of consent, and how we understand it. So, instead of saying outright that we should reduce it to 16, or 15, or 14, or 12, we first need to ask, when is consent relevant? And what are the questions that go behind understanding the relevance of consent? Consent to whom and in what circumstances? Our answers regarding age and capacity might differ based on these questions and the answers to them. Any age of consent should be context-sensitive. It's better to look at it in terms of capacity, which will help you determine age, but different capacities for different kinds of activities for different kinds of circumstances might help us have an understanding of consent which is more reflective of the developing capacities of adolescence.

> We first need more and better information on what kind of sexual practices adolescents are engaging in, at what ages, and the impact of these interactions on them
> **SHRADDHA CHAUDHARY**

BA: The age of consent, prior to the enactment of POCSO, was 16 in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), but cases were still being registered. Even then, it does not take away from the fact that if the victim's testimony gives confidence to the court, irrespective of the age of consent, the court will go with that evidence. At this point, I don't think we have enough research to inform us whether it should be 14 or 16. And how do we differentiate between various circumstances and situations even if it is 14 or 16? Or where both the victim and the accused are minors? Those areas require a lot more research before we can take a call. But as of now, I'm sure one decision can be taken, which is to lower the age of consent to 16 as it was in the IPC prior to the POCSO Act.

But even as courts recognise this fluidity in age of consent and the competency of giving consent, how is it possible to code this fluidity into the law? Is it possible?

SC: Principally, yes. One way to do it might be to have different ages of consent for different kinds of activities. But that is again something that needs to be looked into far more. The second would be to recognise that no matter how strongly you word the law, there is always going to be discretion being exercised no matter where – whether at the police station or at the prosecutor's office or at the judge's chambers. It is important to have certain guidelines and measures of accountability in place. This in combination with a fluid understanding of the age of consent could probably be a first step towards what you're asking.

BA: The first stage, as I said before, is at the police station. Someone interviews the child and is able to figure out whether the child wants to proceed with a complaint or not. And the reasons can help the police in taking the call of whether or not an FIR should be filed. A lot of cases involving those who are 16 and above need not necessarily be converted into an FIR. At the second stage, if an FIR is registered, and the police find out during the investigation that there was non-exploitative, consensual intimacy, then they can file a final report, and that can go to the court. At the third stage, the courts can call the witness and verify if there is any change in the situation or the stance, and then close the case. There may still be cases which continue through the trial. And towards the end of the trial, they might discover that there were other pressures working on the child. That's where the courts unfortunately don't have discretion. Because once it is a statutory offence, they have to go by what is laid down in the statute, where the minimum sentence is 10 years for penetrative sexual assault and 20 years if it's aggravated penetrative sexual assault. Now one of the elements of aggravated penetrative sexual assault is repeated sex. And in a romantic relationship, there is repeated sex. So, invariably, all of them get booked as aggravated penetrative sexual assault, and the courts are left with no discretion there. What is essential is that we should not be taking away any support, any reproductive and sexual health services and access to those services from adolescents who need it. Just because the law says that a case has to be pursued, you can't deny those services.

If the government were to decide to conduct a study tomorrow, what do you think is essential for us to find out in order to progress towards a better understanding of consent?

SC: We first need more and better information on what kind of sexual practices adolescents are engaging in, at what ages, and the impact of these interactions on them. That information can help us meaningfully characterise these relationships as non-harmful and non-wrongful and also recognise trends of grooming and exploitation that are going on. We also need to look into how social norms around sex and sexuality that lead adolescents to make decisions which may not be optimal for them. It's worth considering whether it's in their best interest for each of these sexual interactions to actually have to end in marriage, and what impact that would have on their lives.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Tools cannot replace journalists

The fear that Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning can replace journalists is exaggerated, at least for now

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

All reporters harbour dream projects. But many don't get to execute them due to reasons such as lack of access, absence of critical information, and tight-lipped sources.

The Hindu Data Team also has many such dream projects. For instance, for a long time, we wanted to access the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s gridded weather data, but we did not have the coding skills to do this. Two months ago, we struck gold when we found a Python library which required minimal coding and helped us access the IMD data by downloading it as a comma-separated values file. Having access to this data gave us at least three stories. In one story, we found that Kullu and Chandigarh recorded their wettest-ever days, in July this year. This helped readers understand through data that the rainfall in north India this year was truly unprecedented.

Around the same time, an intern who had joined the team said she knew Machine Learning (ML) and was keen to use it to tell stories. The data team wanted to test the possibility of getting another long-forgotten story done through ML. We wanted to measure Muslim representation over the years in the Lok Sabha. As there is no official record of the religious identities of MPs, we considered using the names of the MPs to identify their religion. But the task of manually classifying over 500 MPs across all the Lok Sabhas has sounded laborious, and we kept postponing the exercise.

When we finally got to it, we first looked at Muslim names on websites that listed the names of Indian babies. The idea was to use that list as a base and identify possible Muslim MPs. However, this idea backfired as Asaduddin Owaisi's name did not figure on any of these lists. We abandoned the exercise.

The intern claimed that she could train the machine to predict the religious identities of MPs. To identify Muslim MPs, character-based ML models developed by Rachana and Sugat Chaturvedi in their 2023 paper, 'It's all in the name: A character-based approach to infer religion', were implemented. The ML algorithm accurately predicted Mr. Owaisi's religious identity. However, it claimed that former Jammu and Kashmir MP Mehbooba Mufti was not a Muslim. The model missed the name of Abdul Rahman Antulay, the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra who served as an MP in the 14th Lok Sabha, as it appeared as A.R. Antulay in the Lok Sabha records. We faced the same issue with S.S. Samadali, another former MP. False positives too crept up. An MP whose name was Khan was not a Muslim, but the ML model identified him as one. And so, despite employing ML, we were back to square one.

However, given that we had already put in a lot of effort into this story, we were not ready to give up. Three interns manually checked most of the potential false positives and false negatives and made corrections. We also called up our reporters in each State to confirm whether the number of Muslim MPs corresponded with what they knew anecdotally or could confirm using sources.

The story, 'No Muslim MPs even in States with high Muslim presence,' published on July 6, was mostly a product of old-fashioned journalistic practices: gathering data manually, checking with sources, writing a story based on known facts, and keeping readers informed of what they may not know. ML gave us the much-needed push.

By the end of this exhaustive exercise, what became clear to us was that tools cannot replace journalists. It is true that journalists who use these tools have an advantage, but the fear that Artificial Intelligence and ML could replace journalists is exaggerated, at least as of now.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

The remains of the day

A boy eats lunch under the Old Yamuna Bridge in New Delhi. The 160-year-old iron truss bridge was submerged in floodwaters until recently. While the floods have receded, concerns about dengue and other diseases have kept authorities on their toes in the capital. Sushil Kumar Verma

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1973

Gujral's advice to newspapers

New Delhi, Aug. 9: The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. I.K. Gujral, to-day called upon the newspaper industry to do some "fresh thinking" about its advertisement policy in the context of 30 per cent cut in newsprint. Addressing the Delhi Advertising Club, Mr. Gujral said, "If newsprint was reduced, a new format had to be thought of." He suggested the discontinuance of the present format in which a full page was devoted to sports and commerce. "To an extent the newspaper format has been antique and boring," he said, adding "we should create something new" as challenges must be faced boldly.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1923

Indian election rules

London, Aug. 2: In the House of Commons, Earl Winterton stated that the Government of India have made proposals for modification of the rule debarring the candidates for elections who had been in prison for over six months.

From Page One

Centre restricts laptop, PC and tablet imports

However, when these are imported by individual buyers, the import duty and shipping fees may make this an expensive prospect, as tax may also have to be paid in the country from where the laptop is purchased. Devices imported for research and development, and those repaired abroad, are exempt from these restrictions.

Electronics such as laptops are generally sold at lower rates than the MRP, which allows manufacturers to hike prices on short notice when needed. When contacted by *The Hindu*, Dell, HP and Lenovo declined to comment on the government's move, with one of the affected players saying it was studying the notification.

However, the move lifted the spirits of domestic laptop assembly firms. "We currently hold the PLI for IT hardware and are manufacturing laptops for notable brands," A. Gururaj, managing director of Optiemus Electronics, said in a statement.

Over nine lakh trees likely to be cut down

These are evergreen tropical forests with high biological diversity and the island itself is home to nearly 650 species of flora and 330 species of fauna.

"The estimated number of trees to be felled in forest area earmarked for development in Great Nicobar Project is 9.64 lakh. Further, it is expected that about 15% of development area will remain as green and open spaces. Thus, potential tree felling would be less than 9.64 lakh. Moreover, this tree felling will be done in a phased manner," said Mr. Choubey.

In lieu of the trees being chopped, compensatory afforestation would be carried out in Haryana as "the scope of plantation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is very limited," the Minister noted.

Three Bills passed in the Rajya Sabha in Opposition's absence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ministers say pre-Independence laws that have lost their utility are being amended

On Thursday too, the Rajya Sabha passed three Bills without any major discussion as Opposition members boycotted the proceedings over the violence in Manipur. The Upper House had passed three Bills on Wednesday in a similar manner.

The Rajya Sabha passed Bills such as the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, and the Advocates (Amendment) Bill on Thursday.

Replying to the debate on the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said the auction and mining of coal, minerals and metals were marred with corruption and scandals under the previous UPA regime. He said that under the Narendra Modi government, no one could raise even an allegation as the Centre created a foolproof mechanism to auction minerals and metals.

Moving the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said the Bill is to replace an 1867 law brought by the colonial rulers for centralising powers.

"The proposed legislation is based on the spirit of upholding media freedom and ease of doing business by making the entire process of allotment of title and registration of periodicals simple and simultaneous, through an online system without the requirement of any physical interface, which would be fast-tracked by the Press Registrar General, thereby ensuring that publishers, especially small and medium publishers, face little difficulty in starting a periodical," Mr. Thakur said.

Arjun Ram Meghwal moved the amendments to the Advocates Bill. He said the Bill is a continuation of the Centre's policy of repealing all obsolete, pre-Independence laws which have lost their utility.

MEA hopes for normalcy in NCR ahead of G-20 meet

Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi says G-20 members have not been briefed about situation in NCR following violence in Gurugram, Nuh; leaders, invitees expected to arrive on September 8

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of communal tensions and violence in Gurgaon, the External Affairs Ministry (MEA) on Thursday said that it would like to see a "return to normalcy" as the National Capital Region (NCR) prepares for the G-20 summit for which heads of governments of the member countries have been invited.

The comment from the official spokesperson of the MEA, Arindam Bagchi, came hours after the U.S. State Department took note of the violence in Gurugram and Nuh and urged for "calm".

"I am sure you are aware of the measures that are being taken by the local authorities to put a stop to the violence there, to restore peace and normalcy. We would like to see a return to normalcy," said Mr. Bagchi, expressing hope for a "very successful summit next month". He also said that the authorities here have not so far briefed other G-20 members about the situation in the NCR.

Cause of worry: RAF personnel deployed at Badshahpur following the violence in adjoining Nuh district, on Thursday. PTI

The Ministry, which is the nodal outfit for organising the G-20 summit, is in the preparatory phase of the event which will require large-scale logistical arrangements involving high-security accommodations and transport facilities for visiting dignitaries.

The communal violence which began in Nuh on July 31, spread to the heart of Gurugram and has since spread to other parts of the NCR as well prompting many multinational companies to order their employees to work from home. The violence has cast a shadow on the plans for G-20 as international media has also highlighted the episode which has come just a month before the landmark summit.

Delegations for summit

While the venue for all the meetings of G-20 leaders and the ceremonial banquet will be in Bharat Mandapam inside Pragati Maidan, leaders and foreign delegations will be staying at various hotels in the NCR – Delhi, Noida, Gurgaon, and Aerocity – that have been contacted by the G-20 secretariat.

Officials say that rooms have been booked for the stay of delegations that is expected to include U.S. President Joe Biden, Russian President Vladimir Putin, China's Xi Jinping and other leaders of the G-20. Apart from 20 members including the European Union, India has nine "guest countries" (Bangladesh, Mauritius, Nigeria, Egypt, the Netherlands, Oman, Spain, Singapore and the UAE). In addition, the heads of multilateral agencies will be present.

According to the working schedule prepared, G-20 leaders and invitees will begin arriving in Delhi on September 8. On September 9, they will all be taken to the Rajghat to pay respects to Mahatma Gandhi.

Mr. Bagchi announced that India will participate in the Saudi-hosted August 5 and 6 dialogue on the Ukraine crisis even as India has refrained from condemning the so-called "special military operation" of Russia against Ukraine. "India will participate in this event. Our participation is in consonance with our long-standing position that dialogue and diplomacy is the way forward," he said.

Manipur High Court directs status quo at proposed burial site

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Hours ahead of the planned mass burial of 35 Kuki-Zo people killed in Manipur's ongoing ethnic conflict, a Bench of the Manipur High Court led by Acting Chief Justice M.V. Muralidharan directed the State and Central government forces to ensure that status quo was maintained at the proposed burial site at Haolai Khopi village in Churachandpur district.

The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by the International Meeteis' Forum, seeking that the burial be stopped as it would take place on government property.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) said that it had decided to postpone the burial by five days, after requests from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Home Minister Amit Shah, and the Mizoram Chief Minister. However, the ITLF has also written to Mr. Shah, saying that it would go ahead with the burial in five days if demands for legalising the site were not met.

PM to attend BRICS summit in S. Africa this month

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday confirmed to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa that he will be travelling to Johannesburg to attend the August 22-24 BRICS summit. The telephonic conversation between Mr. Modi and Mr. Ramaphosa came days after Russian President Vladimir Putin cancelled his visit to Johannesburg for the event.

The summit may see a discussion on expansion of the membership of BRICS that both Russia and China are campaigning for.

Mob loots police armoury in Manipur; policeman killed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Curfew relaxations in Imphal East and Imphal West were withdrawn and restrictions imposed

A police armoury was looted and a Manipur Rifles policeman was killed in Manipur on Thursday, a police official said. Another attempt to loot weapons in Imphal city was thwarted by the police.

The incidents come a day ahead of a Supreme Court hearing on the matter.

The first incident took place in Bishnupur district when a mob looted automatic weapons from the second Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) at Naransena. The number of weapons looted from the armoury is not known.

Many people had gathered around 12 km away to protest a tribal group's call for mass burial of 35 Kuki-Zo people who were killed in the ethnic violence that erupted in the State on May 3.

The protesters led by women tried to storm the way to the area where the burial was planned but were stopped by the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and the Army.

Though the burial had been called off after the Union Home Ministry intervened and spoke to the tribal leaders, the protesters wanted to proceed to the area. The said field is a government notified land.

The second incident took place at Kourtuk on Imphal West-Kangpokpi border where a policeman attached to 6 Manipur Rifles, identified as T. Rishi (48), was shot in the head by armed miscreants from the hill areas.

Meanwhile, curfew relaxations in Imphal East and Imphal West were withdrawn and restrictions imposed during the day as a precautionary measure. Relaxation has been given only from 5 a.m. to noon.

The letter to the Supreme Court had said that some deaths could have been prevented with better monitoring. PTI

Experts go back on letter raising concern over cheetah deaths

Jacob Koshy
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Following a letter sent by four South African wildlife veterinarians and cheetah experts to the Supreme Court expressing "serious concerns" over the management of Project Cheetah, two of them have asked that their names be withdrawn on the grounds that it could impede future exports of the animal from Africa.

On Wednesday, the Environment Ministry confirmed yet another death – the sixth since February – of an adult cheetah, suspected to be due to infection by parasites.

On July 15, a letter by Professor Adrian Tordiffe, Veterinary Wildlife Specialist, University of Pretoria, to the Supreme Court expressed "serious concerns" on how Project Cheetah was being managed and "(their) expert opinion was being ignored" by the Project Steering Committee.

The letter, viewed by *The Hindu*, included among its signatories Vincent van der Merwe, cheetah specialist, Metapopulation Initiative, South Africa; and Andy Frazer, and Mike Toft, both wildlife veterinarians. It said that some deaths could have been prevented with better monitoring and more appropriate veterinary care.

They said that despite being listed as 'international experts' in the Cheetah Project Steering Committee, they were rarely consulted and provided with information on the health of the cheetahs.

However, on July 20, Mr. Merwe said in a letter, viewed by *The Hindu*, to M.K. Ranjitsinh, who was part of a Supreme Court committee to advise on the translocation of the cheetah, that he was "surprised" to see his and Dr. Frazer's name and that they "weren't supportive" of the letter being sent to the Supreme Court.

The Hindu reached out to Mr. Merwe, Professor Tordiffe and Mr. Ranjitsinh for comment, but did not receive any response.

Gyanvapi mosque panel moves SC after HC orders ASI survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anjuman Intazamia Mosque Committee, which manages Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, on Thursday approached the Supreme Court within hours of the Allahabad High Court giving Archaeological Survey of India the signal to conduct an "investigation" of the premises.

The committee said the religious character of the premises has remained a mosque since Independence. The petition said any "findings" made in the survey would be rendered "nugatory and irrelevant" as the site was protected under Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. The SC in its 2020 judgment in *Ramjanmabhoomi temple* case held that the "Places of Worship Act imposes a non-derogable obligation towards enforcing our commitment to secularism under Indian Constitution".

'Save The Children' loses its FCRA permit

Jagriti Chandra
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs withdrew the permit under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act for U.K.-based NGO Save The Children's Indian offshoot, Bal Raksha Bharat.

Save The Children is a child rights organisation that focuses on health, education, hunger and vulnerable children in conflicts. It is present in 116 countries. Last year, it had come under the government's radar for a fundraising campaign on malnutrition, which was objected to by the Ministry of Women and Child Development on the ground that the issue was "vigorously pursued" by the government through its schemes.

Article 370 was a 'compact' entered into between two sovereigns: Sibal

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The hearing in the Article 370 case continued before the Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud in the Supreme Court for the second day on Thursday.

The court asked whether Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, is being equated to the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

"How can you say that the Parliament could not have exercised its preliminary amending powers to abrogate Article 370," Chief Justice Chandrachud questioned senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for petitioners.

"Will that not amount to equating Article 370 with the principle of Basic Structure of the Constitution when you say the abrogation of Article 370 can never be done?" Justice S.K. Kaul asked.

The senior lawyer responded that Article 370 was not the Basic Structure, but a "compact" entered into between two sovereigns (the princely State of Jammu and Kashmir and the Government of India) and engrafted in the Indian Constitution.

> But is it not possible that such a compact could be overridden by the sovereign of the succeeding State [Government of India]?
>
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

"Unlike the case in some other princely States, the Indian government did not take over Jammu and Kashmir... You [government] want to take over J&K, you could have done it as a political act, but how do you do it from within a constitutional structure?" he countered.

But the Chief Justice said Mr. Sibal was treading on thin ice there. "But is it not possible that such a compact could be overridden by the sovereign of the succeeding State [Government of India]," Chief Justice Chandrachud asked the senior advocate.

'Abrupt change'

"Having taken the position that we need the consent of the Constituent Assembly to abrogate Article 370, why and how did the President and the Parliament abruptly change tack in 2019? The Parliament is a creature of the Constitution. It has to function within the limits of the constitutional structure," Mr. Sibal argued.

The proviso to Article 370(3) required the President to take the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly before declaring the provision inoperative.

"What happened to this residuary power of the State to decide its own fate," Mr. Sibal asked.

He said the government, on August 5, 2019, "circumvented" the "residuary power" of the State by inserting Article 367(4)(d), which replaced the expression 'Constituent Assembly of the State' in the proviso to Article 370(3) with 'Legislative Assembly of the State'.

"Tomorrow, the Parliament can say it is the Constituent Assembly and do away with the Basic Structure... If you can say in principle that the Parliament can convert itself into the Constituent Assembly, then where do we go from there... Forget about this case, I am more worried about our future...," Mr. Sibal submitted.

Justice Kaul said it was "debatable" if Article 370 acquired permanence after the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in 1957. He added that it was also "debatable" if the NDA government followed procedure while abrogating the provision in 2019.

APPEAL

Baby Aymaan Aara, daughter of Mubarak Ali.S, 1.5 years admitted in Christian Medical College is suffering from Ostium Secundum ASD with left to right shunt and moderate Tricuspid Regurgitation. She has been advised to undergo sinus venosus atrial septal defect closure at the earliest. The cost of operation would be about **Rs. 3,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the baby. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Aymaan Aara, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Amid row, Data Protection Bill tabled

Legislation introduced in the Lok Sabha after several attempts earlier; Opposition leaders say that the new law is likely to create a 'surveillance state' and will torpedo functioning of non-governmental organisations, while the entire government universe will be exempted from the rules

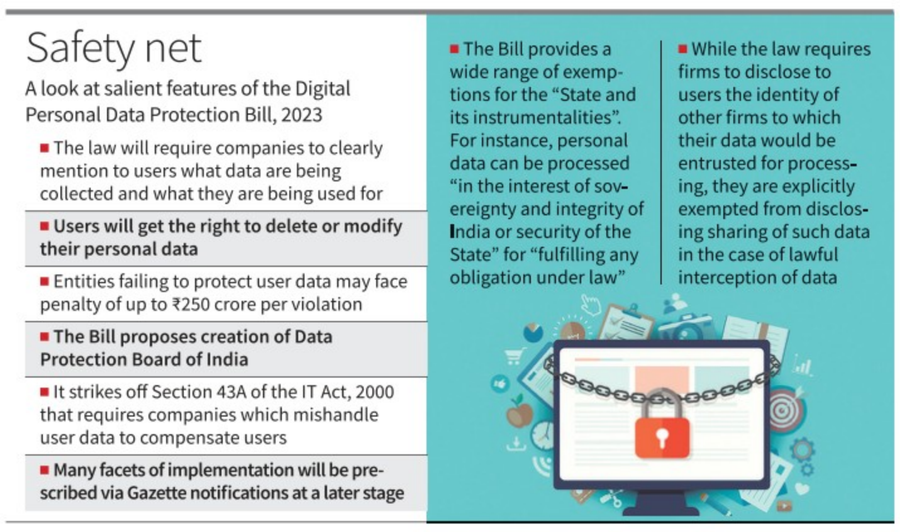
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, nearly six years after the Supreme Court held privacy a fundamental right under the Constitution. At least three separate iterations of the legislation have been floated in the past, with the most recent version being withdrawn from Parliament a year ago.

The Bill was introduced as a financial Bill, but Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Lok Sabha that it was not a money Bill.

Government sources confirmed that the Bill was an ordinary one that would have to pass through both Houses, brushing aside a claim by Congress MP Manish Tewari who initially interpreted the legislation as a money Bill that would only require clearance by the Lok Sabha.

The Bill requires companies to better protect digital data taken from individuals (the former termed 'data fiduciaries' and the latter 'data principals'), by clearly mentioning to them what data are being collected and what they are being used for, appointing and giving contact information of a data protection officer, and giving users the right to delete or modify their personal data.


Safety net
A look at salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023
The law will require companies to clearly mention to users what data are being collected and what they are being used for
Users will get the right to delete or modify their personal data
Entities failing to protect user data may face penalty of up to ₹250 crore per violation
The Bill proposes creation of Data Protection Board of India
It strikes off Section 43A of the IT Act, 2000 that requires companies which mishandle user data to compensate users
Many facets of implementation will be prescribed via Gazette notifications at a later stage
The Bill provides a wide range of exemptions for the "State and its instrumentalities". For instance, personal data can be processed "in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India or security of the State" for "fulfilling any obligation under law"
While the law requires firms to disclose to users the identity of other firms to which their data would be entrusted for processing, they are explicitly exempted from disclosing sharing of such data in the case of lawful interception of data

Fines proposed

It proposes fines ranging from ₹50 crore to ₹250 crore for companies that fail to protect user data or default on disclosure requirements. Government sources said these fines can be compounded, that is separate fines can be imposed on the same data fiduciary for each violation.

Additional requirements are to be notified later by the Union government on what firms will be classified as 'significant' data fiduciaries, who will be subject to more stringent requirements such as passing through a data audit and conducting "data protection impact assessments".

The Bill lays the groundwork for the establishment of the Data Protection Board of India. The Union government will notify the appointment of its members. The Bill provides for the subordination of many other aspects of its implementation by way of notification in the Gazette of India at a later stage. These include the day it will come into force, the registration of so-called consent managers who can represent the interests of data principals, the requirements for companies to report data breaches to authorities, timelines for erasing user data, platforms where children above a certain age can sign up without express parental consent, and the modalities of audits for significant data fiduciaries.

The Bill strikes off Section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 that requires companies which mishandle user data to compensate users. Government sources said this was because "compensation is a judicial process", while *ex-gratia* payments were at the discretion of the governments, and that legally compensation would have to be awarded through civil tort law.

Range of exemptions

The Bill provides a wide range of exemptions for the "state and its instrumentalities". For instance, personal data can be processed "in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India or security of the state" for "fulfilling any obligation under law".

While the law requires firms to disclose to users the identity of other firms to which their data will be entrusted for processing, they are explicitly exempted from disclosing sharing of such data in the case of lawful interception of data. Everybody has the same obligations under the Bill, even the government, sources told *The Hindu* in response to these concerns, adding that the exemptions were only in place for cases such as medical emergencies and disasters.

An earlier draft of the Bill was largely approved by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology. Opposition members of the committee, over the past week, accused the government of obfuscation, pointing out that this Bill had been withdrawn, but the new one had not been examined by the committee.

Prataprao Jadhav, the chair of the committee, confirmed in a statement that the committee's mandate was restricted to the 2022 draft.

'Sent to committee'

Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said this version too should be sent for such an examination. "It is a Bill which impinges on fundamental rights as per the [2017 Supreme Court] *Puttaswamy* judgment on the right to privacy; it should be sent to the standing committee," he said.

The Bill "empowers the government to access people's private data, and this is likely to create a surveillance state", Asaduddin Owaisi, MP from Hyderabad, said.

Congress MP Manish Tewari said, "The Bill will apply with full force to all non-governmental organisations, and the entire government universe is going to be exempt from it." .

With 6 sittings left, Centre, Opposition try to end stand-off over Manipur debate

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

With just six sittings remaining in the Monsoon Session, the Centre and the Opposition seem to have worked out a truce to break the prolonged logjam in the Rajya Sabha on the question of a debate on the Manipur violence.

Both sides have agreed to have a debate under Rule 167 under a pre-decided resolution on the issue. The Opposition remains adamant on the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the House, but for now, the next challenge is to finalise the wording of the resolution which is agreeable to both sides.

Sources say Union Home Minister Amit Shah has conveyed his availability for August 11, the last day of the session, for the debate. Sources said that the debate is likely to be held on that date.

The day began with a convivial exchange between Leader of the House Piyush Goyal and Trinamool Congress floor leader Derek O'Brien.

"As an Opposition, we want this discussion on Manipur. We are not here to show ego or arrogance. Manipur needs care, healing, it needs to listen to voice of consolation. Let us find a solution because this logjam is not helping any one," Mr. O'Brien said.

'Ready for a debate'

In response, Mr. Goyal, reiterating his point that the government was ready for a debate on the subject from day one, invited the Opposition leaders for tea.

During his submission, he said the House must run in an orderly manner and there should be no sloganeering when Mr. Shah lays his statement. Soon after, the Opposition walked out over an argument between Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar over the Chair defending Mr. Modi.

At half past noon, Mr. Goyal, along with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, walked into Mr. Kharge's room, where floor leaders of the parties under the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had assembled. In the meeting, Mr. Joshi and Mr. Goyal were told that the Opposition was ready to give up on its demand to hold a debate under Rule 267.

Both Mr. Goyal and Mr. Joshi, sources said, gave in-principle approval to the idea of holding a debate on Manipur under a resolution under Rule 167.

Congress chief whip Jairam Ramesh posted on X (formerly Twitter), "INDIA parties have offered a middle path solution to the Leader of the House to break the logjam and get a discussion on Manipur going in an uninterrupted manner in the Rajya Sabha. Hope the Modi government agrees."

The challenge though now will be to word the resolution in a way that both sides agree. Sources said the INDIA parties have prepared a few drafts and they insist on underlining the "constitutional breakdown" in Manipur.

Privilege notices admitted against O'Brien, Chadha

NEW DELHI

Breach of privilege notices moved by BJP members against Trinamool Congress MP Derek O' Brien and Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chadha were referred to the Parliamentary Committee on Privileges by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday.

LS passes Delhi services Bill amid a walkout

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Lok Sabha on Thursday gave its nod to a Bill that gives the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of Delhi control over Group A services, Union Minister Amit Shah said the Opposition parties belonging to the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) came together to oppose the Bill for the sake of their alliance and not for "democracy, the country or its people".

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was passed by voice vote amid a Opposition walkout.

"Today the country is witnessing the dual face of Opposition. For them, the Bills for public welfare are not important. To ensure a small party does not leave their alliance, they have joined forces," Mr. Shah said, referring to the nine Bills that were passed without discussion because of Opposition protests over the Manipur violence. Mr. Shah said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was opposing the Delhi Bill with the sole intention of hiding its corruption and claimed that the alliance would break up in any case.

"Arvind Kejriwal*ji* [AAP convenor and Delhi Chief Minister] would say bye-bye to the alliance once this Bill is passed," he said.

The debate on the Bill in the Lower House had clear political undertones as Mr. Shah said no matter how many parties came together ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Narendra Modi government would be voted back to power with full majority.

In a sharp retort, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader Dayanidhi Maran said the INDIA bloc was going strong, before adding, "You never know, in 2024, you will be here, and we will be there (Treasury benches)." Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the Bill violated the order of the Supreme Court which empowered the Delhi Assembly to make decisions regarding civil services in Delhi. He said now "bureaucrats can veto an elected Chief Minister".

After the passage of the Bill following a debate of more than four hours, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla suspended the lone AAP member from Punjab, Sushil Kumar Rinku, for the remaining six days of the Monsoon session for showing disrespect to the Chair by throwing papers at it when the Bill was introduced on Tuesday.

Rajiv Gauba

Cabinet Secretary gets third service extension

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has given another one-year extension in service to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba. He will remain in office till August 30, 2024.

This is the third time his service has been extended by an year. Mr. Gauba was appointed Cabinet Secretary in 2019 for a fixed term of two years.

Before his appointment to the top bureaucratic post, he served as the Union Home Secretary for two years.

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संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं.शार:सीएमजी सिविलः अनुरक्षणः ई–जन निविदा / No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-09/23-24 तिथि/ Date. 03.08.2023

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से "फेज-I एवं II के क्षेत्र में 200 क्वार्टरों की रंगाई–पुताई" (टी/सी-23-037, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 34.78 लाख), "सुल्लूरु पेट के पीसीएन कॉलोनी में 200 क्वार्टरों की रंगाई–पुताई" (टी/सी-23-038, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 34.04 लाख), "फेज-II के क्षेत्र में 300 क्वार्टरों की रंगाई–पुताई" (टी/सी-23-039, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 31.41 लाख) "जीरो पॉइंट के एलवीपीओ भवन तथा नए एलसीसी भवन की रंगाई–पुताई का कार्य" (टी/सी-23-040, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 10.63 लाख), "एसएमपीसी यूनिट–1 के एसएमपी एवं ईटीएफ तथा भवन सं. 116, 117 एवं 152 की रंगाई–पुताई का कार्य" (टी/सी-23-041, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 31.34 लाख), हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को 18.08.2023 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Painting of 200 no.s qtrs @ PHC-I & II area" (T/C-23-037, Est. cost ₹ 34.78 Lakhs); "Painting of 200 nos qtrs @ PCN Colony, Sullurpeta" (T/C-23-038, Est. cost ₹ 34.04 Lakhs); "Painting of 300 nos qtrs @ PHC-II area" (T/C-23-039, Est .cost ₹ 31.41 Lakhs); "Painting works of LVPO bldg & New LCC bldg at Zero Point" (T/C-23-040, Est. cost ₹ 10.63 Lakhs); "Painting works at SMP & ETF and Bldg No. 116, 117 & 152 at SMPC Unit-01" (T/C-23-041, Est. cost ₹ 31.34 Lakhs)". Tender documents can be downloaded up to 18.08.2023, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY
An Institution of National Importance
Pioneering National Security and Police University of India Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

PUDUCHERRY CAMPUS

No.	Programs offered
1	Diploma in Police Science
2	Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Police Administration
3	Postgraduate Diploma in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics
4	Postgraduate Diploma in Fitness Management
5	Postgraduate Diploma in Security and Intelligence Management

SHIVAMOGGA CAMPUS

No.	Programs offered
1	Diploma in Police Science
2	Bachelor of Arts in Security Management
3	Postgraduate Diploma in Police Science and Management

PUDUCHERRY CAMPUS: Pondicherry Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology [PIHMCT], Opp. to Mahalakshmi Nagar, Murungapakkam, Puducherry, 605004, https://rru.ac.inipuducherry-campus/ Email: admission.puducherry@rru.ac.in, Cont. No. +916357244804, +918122726882

SHIVAMOGGA CAMPUS: Old Kendriya Vidyalaya School Building, Ward No. 03, Shantinagar, Ragigudda, Shivamogga 577204, Kamataka, INDIA, https://rru.ac.in/karnataka-campus-director/, Email: admission.kamatak@rru.ac.in, Cont. No. +916357244801

No. A.12026/7/2023-Estt.IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

Narmada Control Authority (NCA) is a Body Corporate set up by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956, for the purpose of securing compliance with the implementation of the decision and direction of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. The Narmada Control Authority has its headquarter at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

2. Applications are invited from eligible and suitable officers for filling up one post of Member (Civil) in Narmada Control Authority, Indore in the Pay Matrix Level-14 (Rs.144200- 218200/-) on deputation (including short-term contract) basis.
3. Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc. are available at mowr.gov.in; dopt.gov.in and nca.gov.in. Applications **(in triplicate)** complete in all respects of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to:- The Deputy Secretary (Estt.IV), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Room No. 626, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110001 and by email at basu-sk@nic.in & soe4-mowr@gov.in, **within a period of 45 days from the date of issue/ publishing of this Advertisement in the Employment News.**
4. **Advance copies of application or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/ documents are liable to be rejected.**

(Subrata K. Basu)
Deputy Secretary

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
Expression of Interest (EoI)
CDAC(T) invites Expression of Interest For Transfer Of Technology of High Voltage High Frequency Planar Magnetics Components.
For further details visit www.cdac.in,
Contact: 9847069184,
tpc@cdac.in"

COAL INDIA LIMITED
(A Maharatna Company)
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd www.coalindia.in / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Procurement Portal htttps://eprocure.gov.in. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in".

DR. Y.S.R.UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
A.P., VIJAYAWADA - 8
NOTIFICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO PH.D., COURSE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission into Ph.D course in the field of Modern Medicine and other Allied Health Sciences as per Revised Ph.D Regulations 2022-23 of Dr. YSR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada from 04-08-2023 to 26-08-2023. For detailed information please visit University Website at https://drysr.uhsap.in
Sd/-
VIJAYAWADA - 520 008 (Dr.V.RADHIKA REDDY)
Dated: 03.08.2023 REGISTRAR

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813;
website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact No.: 9646123323)
Tender Inquiry No. PPR-15/2023 Dated: 02.08.2023
Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No.D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-Tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy (RE-Solar) from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 16th August 2023 to 31st October 2023. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detaled NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com from 02.08.2023 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstcecommerce.com
C-506/23 76155/12/1998/2023/26476

Uttarakhand Housing & Urban Development Authority (UHUDA), Dehradun.
email-info@uhuda.org.in, uhudauk@gmail.com Phone & Fax: 0135-2719500
Ref: 165/Uhuda-12/Rishikesh Redevelopment / 2023-24 Date:03.08.2023
Request for Proposal
Two Separate Request for Proposal are being invited by Uttarakhand Housing & Urban Development Authority (UHUDA) from the eligible firms / agencies for Selection of Master Planner(s) to prepare Vision & Concept Plan, Detailed Design, Integrated Infrastructure Plan, Implementation Strategy and Provide Project / Construction Management for the same on select area of religious and tourist significance for following cities:
1. Haridwar 2. Rishikesh
Two Separate RFP documents containing the details can be downloaded from official website http://uktenders.gov.in & our websites: www.uhuda.org.in from 1100 Hrs 04-August-2023. Last date for submitting the RFP in sealed envelope is 1500 Hrs 07- September-2023. Further information / corriegendum shall be available in UHUDA and UK Tender website.
Chief Administrator

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813;
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact No.: 0175-2921547)
Tender Enquiry No. (RfS No.) 47/PSPCL/IPC/SOLAR/500MW/2023/ET-7 Dated: 02.08.2023
Office of SE/IPC, NRSE & Thermal (D), T-8, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala-147001, invites bids for purchase of 500 MW solar power through competitive bidding process (followed by e-reverse auction) from grid connected ground mounted/floating solar photovoltaic power projects to be set up anywhere in Punjab. For detailed NIT and tender specification please refer to https://www.bharat-electronictender.com/.
Note Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://www.bharat-electronictender.com/ only.
C-508/23 76155/12/2000/2023/26479

Central Coalfields Limited
A Miniratna Company
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/ respective Subsidiary Company (CCL,www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in"

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2: Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District,
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232433 000147	Imported Limestone for LSFM - Cement Plant.	17.08.2023
232423 001756	Cationic Rosin for TNPL Unit - II	17.08.2023
232423 001769	Sodium Sulphate (In Jumbo Bags) for TNPL Unit - II	18.08.2023
Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only.		
Email	232433000147 - purchase.fuel@tnpl.co.in 232423001756 ; 1769 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/4260/Tender/2023 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Email- sejjn.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PWD CIRCLE JHUNJHUNU
No. 962 Date: 24/7/23
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for 01 Nos. work of Road / Building work (NIT 10/2023-24 dated 24.07.2023) in Jhunjhunu Distt. are invited from interested bidder from dated 25.07.2023 to 04.08.2023 upto 04:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal () of the state; and pwd.rajasthan.gov.in department website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 223.50 Lacs.
UBN : PWD 2324WSOB09025
Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Jhunjhunu

INBRIEF

Counterfeit medicines seized, one person held in Kolkata

Counterfeit medicines priced at ₹2 crore were seized from unlicensed premises at 82 Moulana Shaukat Ali Street in Kolkata, said a senior official in the Health Ministry on Thursday. They were in the name of products of manufacturers such as Sun Pharmaceutical, Alkem, Cipla, Glenmark, GSK, Abbott, Novartis, Dr. Reddy's, and Aristo and brands such as Augmentin, Pan-D, Pantocid DSR, Urimax-D, and Clavam. He said that one person was arrested and sent to judicial custody for 10 days by a court. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation East Zone, conducted the search after getting a complaint from Sun Pharma Laboratories Limited.

Gujarat HC judge recuses from hearing Teesta's plea

Justice Samir Dave of the Gujarat High Court, on Thursday, recused himself from hearing social activist Teesta Setalvad's petition seeking to quash an FIR filed against her and two former IPS officers for allegedly fabricating evidence in the 2002 riots cases. Justice Dave said, "Not before me", when the matter was mentioned in his Bench. The Chief Justice of the High Court will now assign the case to a new Bench. Ms. Setalvad moved the High Court after the sessions court rejected her plea. She and two others were arrested on charges of forgery and fabricating evidence with the intent to implicate Gujarat government functionaries in the 2002 riots cases.

Minor girl allegedly raped, body burnt in brick kiln

A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped and her body burnt in a brick kiln in Bhilwara district in Rajasthan on Wednesday. The police detained three persons from Narsinghpura village in connection with the crime. The girl had gone out to graze cattle on Wednesday morning and did not return. Her family members reached a brick kiln area while looking for her and spotted her footwear. The police said the family members found the girl's charred bracelet and some bones in the kiln. The accused, who run the brick kiln, are being interrogated. The police said the bone samples would be sent for DNA testing.

Missing soldier traced in Kashmir by Kulgam police

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday have traced a missing soldier, six days after he went missing from his hometown of Kulgam. "The missing Army jawan has been recovered by the Kulgam police. A joint interrogation will start shortly after the medical check-up is done," Additional Director-General of Police Vijay Kumar said. Javid Wani, 25, who had come home on leave, had been missing since Saturday. His family had appealed to the militants to "spare him if he has been kidnapped by them". The car he was driving had been recovered from the Paranhall area of Kulgam district and it had traces of blood, officials said. Mr. Wani is posted in Leh district of Ladakh.

India summons German envoy to press Ariha's case

Child's mother met with MPs in Parliament House on Wednesday, seeking her return; New Delhi says it will continue to take up the matter with Berlin, indicating widening diplomatic differences

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Amid calls by the Opposition for the government to take steps to bring two-year-old Ariha Shah from Germany to India, the External Affairs Ministry on Thursday said it had summoned the German Ambassador over the child's situation in foster care.

The disclosure came a day after Ariha's mother, Dhara Shah, met with MPs to appeal for help and at the very least, for India to press for Ariha to be transferred to a foster home in India, where she can be raised as an Indian among her own Jain community.

"At a minimum, we believe this child's cultural rights and rights as an Indian are being infringed upon by her being placed in German foster care," Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi told presspersons here, adding that the 2021 case was being accorded "high priority".

"The German Ambassador to India was summoned this week and our concerns were clearly conveyed to him. We have also asked for the early return of the child to India, and we will continue to press German authorities on this matter," he said, indicating the widening diplomatic differences between New Delhi and Berlin over the case.

Seeking help: Dhara Shah, mother of Ariha Shah, at the Parliament House complex in New Delhi. PTI

Sources said German Ambassador Phillip Ackerman had been summoned by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Monday, and the latest developments in the case were discussed. In an order on June 13, 2021, a court in Berlin held that Ariha, who was then eight months old, had suffered brutal injuries while in the care of her parents, Dhara and Bhavesh Shah, a charge they have denied. Recording the nature of injuries reported in graphic detail, the court had decided that the child's guardianship would be given to the German Youth Services (Jugendamt), which took Ariha from her parents in September 2021 and placed her in a foster home.

Diplomatic options

Despite Ariha being an Indian citizen, German family law does not permit her travelling out of Jugendamt's jurisdiction, and any further action would necessitate the case being considered at a higher or even political level. Sources said that Indian and German diplomats had discussed a number of options to ensure that the child is raised as far as possible with a connection to India, and she is reportedly being given a vegetarian diet following her family's traditional preferences.

Ariha's parents have taken their plea to various officials and political leaders since the order was handed down in June.

They have requested a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Villages, cities to display plaques on local bravehearts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

***Meri Mati, Mera Desh* is the valedictory of the celebrations of 75 years of Indian Independence**

Villages and cities across the country will install a memorial plaque each in their limits with names of local heroes, along with a quote by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, from August. Freedom fighters and defence, Central Armed Police Force and State police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty will have their names inscribed on the plaque.

The plaques, *Shilaphalakam*, will come up as part of a campaign called *Meri Mati, Mera Desh* (My soil, my country), the concluding programme of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence.

The plaques will be installed near waterbodies, if available, or near panchayat offices and schools, Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan told presspersons here on Thursday.

The specifications of the plaques, including dimensions and the model art work to be used, have been shared on a portal designed for the purpose, Mr. Mohan said.

"We have requested that the names inscribed be sent for compilation in a central database," Mr. Mohan said.

Union Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said the campaign was much more ambitious than the *Har Ghar Tiranga* programme launched last year.

Youth volunteers would collect soil from each panchayat or village and bring them to the block level. From each block, an urn containing all the soil would be brought to the national capital. In urban areas, the urns would be brought to the larger municipalities and towns from smaller local bodies before being brought to the capital.

Mr. Mohan said 8,000 urns were expected in Delhi where they would be used to create a garden, Amrit Vatika. A memorial would also be constructed.

Pleas in SC challenge Bihar caste survey verdict

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Multiple petitions challenging the Bihar caste survey were filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday, alleging that the survey is an attempt by the Nitish Kumar government to "usurp" the Centre's powers.

The petitions have appealed against a Patna High Court decision on August 1, upholding the legality of the State's order notifying the survey.

"The notification is against the constitutional mandate of distribution of powers between the State and the Union Legislature enshrined under Article 246 of the Constitution," the petition said. It added that the survey also violated Schedule VII of the Constitution.

The petitions highlighted that the census was enumerated at Entry 69 in the Union List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Endangered Himalayan vulture, bred in captivity for the first time in India

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Researchers have recorded the first instance of captive breeding of the Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis)* in India at the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati.

Categorised as 'near threatened' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species, the Himalayan vulture is a common winter migrant to the Indian plains, and a resident of the high Himalayas.

Details of the successful breeding were recently published in a paper titled "Breeding of Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* Hume, 1869 (Aves: Accipitriformes: Accipitridae) in the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati, Assam, India" in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*.

The paper states that the successful hatching was noted on March 14, 2022 and the nestling was shifted to the artificial brooding facility on March 15.

New records: The vulture nestling at the Assam State zoo in Guwahati. SACHIN RANADE

"During first month, the nestling was kept in the brooder made up of a plastic box (1 x 1 x ½ f) with a mat for the grip. The temperature was maintained around 30-35 C with a lamp, a water bowl and it was monitored with a thermo-hygrometer. The nestling was provided with sufficient space to move towards and away from the heat source," the publication said.

Along with the housing for nestling, the paper says, the food, frequency of feed, and the growth and colouration of the nestling were observed.

Sachin Ranade, lead author of the publication, said: "Breeding the species in Guwahati was a daunting task as, in nature, this species breeds in snow-clad mountains. But as these birds were kept in zoo for a long time, they acclimatised to the tropical environment, and we helped them rear the young ones, which led the whole process to this unique success," Mr. Ranade said.

The two co-authors of the paper are Jay Gore, and Ashwini Kumar, Director of the Guwahati Zoo.

Mr. Ranade, who is also in charge of the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC) at Rani in Assam, said that the conservation breeding of the Himalayan vulture at the Guwahati Zoo is the second such instance in the world, after France, where the species has been bred in captivity.

Four VCBCs established by Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) at Pinjore in Haryana, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Rani in Assam, and Rajabhatkhawa in West Bengal are involved in conservation breeding of the white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*), and the Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*). The unprecedented scale and speed of declines in vulture populations has left all the three resident *Gyps* vulture species categorised 'Critically Endangered'.

N.D. Mahanor

Eminent litterateur N.D. Mahanor passes away

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Noted litterateur and Padma Shri awardee N.D. Mahanor, known as Maharashtra's 'nature poet', passed away on August 3 at a private hospital in Pune, aged 80.

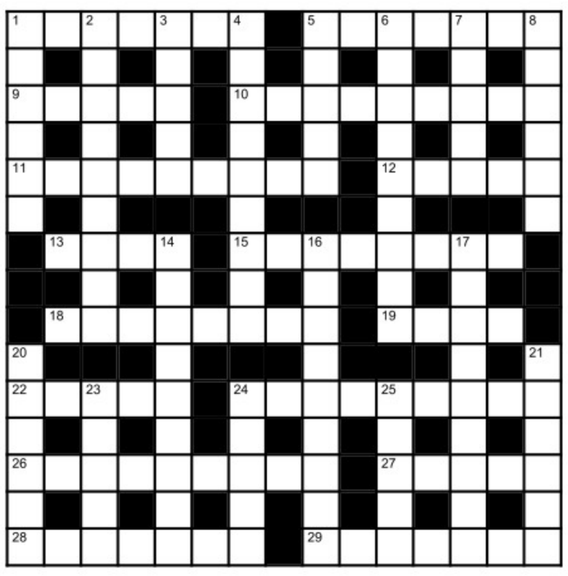
He had been admitted to the hospital with a kidney ailment for the past few days, sources said. A versatile literary figure, Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, known as 'Na Dho', was a novelist, songwriter and lyricist. He has served as a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

CROSSWORD + 13935

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Give way, exposing both of them as nouveau riche (7)
5 Empty ground, touch embarrassed to share and share alike (2,5)
9 Care like an unnamed King (5)
10 Crockery found on the western border of a country (4,5)
11 Terrible life, not providing any record (9)
12 Gather for a service (5)
13 Fat boy gets second prize (4)
15 Ready to wear cotton, it's tough and fibrous (8)
18 They work for a dictator, is that a complaint? (8)
19 Wet ground, Australia grim, drop tailenders... (4)
22 ...part of the game, need to recall a run getter (5)
24 Runs over a bit of minor inconveniences (4,5)
26 Can bishop be a good jockey? (9)
27 Country and ones missing in a country (5)
28 Knight taking 3 back to house (7)
29 Come back for Indian political leaders in store, perhaps (7)

Down

1 Stone a tailless wild cat sitting on snow (6)
2 Flyer to bake bread among other things (9)
3 Reduces in the centre of German city (5)
4 Releases unless shortly some money comes in (9)
5 Kind to supply some Oxygen requirement (5)
6 Ask to stop work as one gave a formal speech (9)
7 Regular trading day in the northernmost parts of the world (5)
8 Taken in two parts amount covering is sounding harsh (6)
14 Waste fancy saree for work clothes (9)
16 Preacher gropes around, holding a measure (9)
17 Meant to be different songs for these worms (9)
20 Bad smell, suppressing smell of sweat by a fast runner (6)
21 Last in line, say for the property (6)
23 Best in the literary circles (5)
24 Ships run on time (5)
25 Flyer getting married in spot (5)

SUDOKU

		2					8	3
1					8	9	2	
		9		4				
3		4						
	7			2			5	
						1		8
				1		5		
	5	7	4					9
8	9					3		

No.SS5878 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

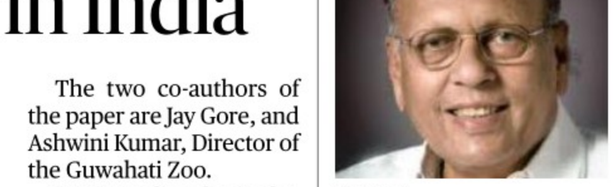
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	T	A	N	H	O	P	E	■	B	U	S	T	U	P
E	■	R	■	O	■	R	■	N	■	S	■	O	■	E
C	O	M	B	I	N	E	■	O	C	U	L	I	S	T
U	■	A	■	P	■	S	■	L	■	A	■	L	■	I
R	O	D	E	O	■	E	M	O	L	L	I	E	N	T
E	■	A	■	L	■	N	■	C	■	■	■	T	■	■
■	■	■	A	L	S	T	R	O	E	M	E	R	I	A
F	■	A	■	O	■	P	■	N	■	A	■	Y	■	L
O	L	D	W	I	V	E	S	T	A	L	E	■	■	■
L	■	O	■	■	■	R	■	E	■	I	■	A	■	D
D	O	R	S	A	L	F	I	N	■	G	A	T	O	R
A	■	A	■	U	■	E	■	D	■	N	■	T	■	Y
B	U	B	O	N	I	C	■	E	T	A	I	L	E	R
L	■	L	■	T	■	T	■	R	■	N	■	E	■	U
E	V	E	N	S	O	■	L	E	A	T	H	E	R	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	4	5	8	6	2	1	9
8	6	9	2	1	4	7	3	5
2	5	1	9	7	3	4	8	6
5	1	8	3	4	9	6	2	7
6	4	7	1	2	5	8	9	3
3	9	2	7	6	8	5	4	1
4	8	5	6	3	1	9	7	2
9	2	3	8	5	7	1	6	4
1	7	6	4	9	2	3	5	8



FAITH

External symbols, devotion

Pillai Lokacharya wrote 18 works, known collectively as *Ashtadasa Rahasyangal*. Manavala Mamunigal observed that of these 18, *Srivachana Bhushanam* was the most valuable, elaborated M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. Mamunigal added that this was not empty praise, but the absolute truth. In *Srivachana Bhushanam*, Pillai Lokacharya gives the qualities which Sri Vaishnavas should have. Sastras say that we should sport external symbols, in addition to keeping our thoughts focused on the Supreme One. A Vaishnava should wear a strand made of tulsi seeds and another made of lotus seeds. He must also wear an urdhva pundra on his forehead. We might wonder why external symbols are important.

External symbols are prescribed, because they are likely to act as a check on our conduct. It is a way to impose self-discipline. Even if we are tempted to do wrong, we will stop and have a rethink. We will ask ourselves what people will think of us if we look like devout people, but indulge in acts unbecoming of our devotion. *Srivachana Bhushanam* lists many qualities a Vaishnava should have. These prescriptions are so difficult to adhere to, that one wonders who will follow them. But if a person reads them, and feels remorseful about not following any of them, then he may make an attempt to change his behaviour.

SEOUL

Several hurt in South Korean 'stabbing rampage', say police

AP

A man went on a "stabbing rampage" near South Korea's Seohyeon subway station in Bundang, the police said on Thursday, with as many as 10 people reported wounded two weeks after a similar attack killed one person. The suspect "had been arrested at the scene", the official said. AFP

JERUSALEM

Israel court hears case against law protecting PM from being removed

AP

Israel's Supreme Court heard a petition on Thursday against a law that protects Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from being removed from office. The law passed earlier this year says that a Prime Minister can only be deemed unfit to rule for health or mental reasons and that only the government can make that decision. AP

WARSAW

Poland and Lithuania say they fear provocations from Russia, Belarus

AP

Polish and Lithuanian leaders held an urgent meeting on Thursday in a strategically sensitive area where their NATO nations border Belarus and the Russian territory of Kaliningrad, warning that they are bracing for provocations from Moscow and Minsk. The NATO countries on the eastern flank have felt under pressure for years. AP

BEIRUT

Islamic State group says its leader was killed by militants in Syria

AP

The Islamic State group announced on Thursday the death in Syria of its little-known leader, Abu al-Hussein al-Husseini al-Qurayshi, who headed the extremist organisation since November. The group did not say when al-Qurayshi was killed. It said that Abu Hafs al-Hashemi al-Qurayshi was named as the group's new leader. AP

Pakistan approves signing of security pact with U.S.

CIS-MOA is a foundational agreement that the U.S. signs with its allies and countries with which it wants to maintain close military ties; it provides legal cover for the sale of military equipment

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Cabinet has quietly approved the signing of a new security pact with the U.S., a move that indicates a fresh start in defence cooperation after years of distrust between the two nations and may open avenues for Islamabad to get military hardware from Washington, a media report said on Thursday. Through a circulation summary, the Cabinet gave its seal of approval to sign the Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement, known as the CIS-MOA, between Pakistan and the US, *The Express Tribune* newspaper reported.

However, there was no official announcement from either side about the signing of the agreement.

The development comes days after Pakistan and the U.S. agreed to further enhance their relations in the defence field. REUTERS

According to the report, Federal Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb was approached but did not respond.

Bilateral relations

The development comes days after Pakistan and the U.S. agreed to further enhance their bilateral relations, including in the defence field, at a meeting between U.S. Central Command chief Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla and Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Gen. Asim Munir. CIS-MOA is a foundational agreement that the U.S. signs with its allies and countries with which it wants to maintain close military and defence ties. It also provides legal cover to the U.S. Department of Defence for ensuring the sale of military equipment and hardware to other countries. The signing of the CIS-MOA means the two countries are keen to maintain the institutional mechanism.

The agreement, first signed between the Joint Staff Headquarters of Pakistan and the U.S. Department of Defence in October 2005 for 15 years, expired in 2020. The two sides have now renewed that arrangement which covers joint exercises, operations, training, basing and equipment.

The signing of the CIS-MOA indicates that the U.S. might sell some military hardware to Pakistan in coming years, a source in Washington was quoted as saying in the report. However, a retired senior Army played down the development and said it was not easy for Pakistan to buy military hardware from the U.S. despite this agreement.

Greenpeace actvists drape Sunak's house in black

Associated Press
LONDON

Greenpeace demonstrators draped the country estate of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in black fabric on Thursday to protest his plan to expand oil and gas drilling in the North Sea.

Video posted by the group showed a crew dressed in bright red jumpsuits, helmets and safety harnesses carrying ladders and climbing onto the roof of the Yorkshire house. They slowly unfurled long black sheets of fabric over the front of the home and held a yellow sign on the roof that read "No New Oil."

The Prime Minister was not home because he is vacationing with his family in California.

Mr. Sunak announced on Monday that Britain will grant hundreds of new oil and gas licenses in the North Sea. The move was widely criticized by environmental groups.

Coup backers rally in Niger as security worries escalate

Agence France-Presse
NIAMEY

Thousands of people rallied on Thursday in Niger's capital in support of the coup that toppled the democratically elected government, as security concerns mounted among Western nations.

Demonstrators in the heart of Niamey, some brandishing giant Russian flags, chanted anti-French slogans at the rally called to mark the anniversary of the west African nation's 1960 independence from France.

Issiaka Hamadou, one of the protesters, said that it was "only security that interests us," irrespective of whether it came from "Russia, China, Turkey, if they want to help us."

"We just don't want the French, who have been looting us since 1960 – they've been there ever since and nothing has changed," he said.

The crowd at the rally around him was shouting "Down with France", "Long live Russia, long live [Vladimir] Putin".

Strong resistance: Protesters hold an anti-France placard during a demonstration on independence day in Niamey on Thursday. AFP

A week after the toppling of elected President Mohamed Bazoum, European citizens have been evacuating from Niger, which has had a key role in French and Western strategies to combat a jihadist insurgency that has rampaged across the Sahel since 2012.

And the clock is ticking down on Sunday's demand from West African regional bloc ECOWAS for the coup leaders to restore Mr. Bazoum to power within a week or face the possible "last resort" of military intervention.

Mr. Bazoum has been held by the coup plotters since July 26, prompting U.S. President Joe Biden to call for his immediate release on Thursday, urging the "preservation of Niger's hard-earned democracy".

Britain and the United States have announced the pulling back of embassy personnel in Niger as a precaution.

Paris – which said on Thursday it had completed its evacuation flights – urged the junta led by General Abdourahamane Tiani to "fully guarantee" the safety of embassies in Niamey ahead of Thursday's protests.

Trump to face a judge over poll fiasco charges

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Trump is expected to be taken into custody by law enforcement, enter a not-guilty plea

Donald Trump is due in federal court on Thursday to answer to charges that he sought to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, facing a judge near the U.S. Capitol building that his supporters stormed to try to block the peaceful transfer of power.

In what's become a familiar ritual, Mr. Trump is expected to be processed by law enforcement, be taken into custody and enter a not guilty plea in front of a judge before being released, so he can rejoin the campaign trail as he seeks to reclaim the White House in 2024.

An indictment on Tuesday from Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith charges Mr. Trump with four felony counts related to his efforts to undo his presidential election loss in the run-up to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol, including conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding.

Saudi, Kuwait reject Iran claim to gas field

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait said on Thursday they have sole ownership of a disputed gas field also claimed by Iran, in an escalating feud after Tehran threatened to pursue exploration. The offshore field, known as Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, has long been focal point of contention between the three countries.

The Kuwaiti and Saudi authorities said in a joint statement published on Thursday that "they alone have full sovereign rights to exploit the wealth in that area". The two Arab Gulf states renewed "their previous and repeated calls to the Islamic Republic of Iran to negotiate" the demarcation of their maritime borders to settle the issue, according to the official *Saudi Press Agency*.

Iran and Kuwait have held unsuccessful talks for many years over their disputed maritime border area, which is rich in natural gas. Recent attempts to revive negotiations have failed, and Iran on Sunday said Tehran may pursue work even without an agreement.

RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY
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Lavad - Dehgam - 382305 Gandhinagar, Gujarat, INDIA
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OPEN ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR 2023-24

Applications are invited for innovative, research-based, highly professional Diploma, Graduate, and Postgraduate Programmes for the Academic Year 2023-24. Last submission date for admission forms: August 13, 2023.

For more information please visit University website https://rru.ac.in/admission-2023-24/
Email: admission@rru.ac.in Contact No. +91 079 68126800

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केन्द्र शार SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा-524124, तिरुपति जिला. (आं.प्र.) SRIHARIKOTA-524 124, TIRUPATI DT. (A.P)

ADVERTISEMENT NO.SDSC SHAR/RMT/**04/2023** DATED **04.08.2023**

सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केन्द्र (एसडीएससी शार) निम्न पदों के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंतित करता है
Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR) invites Online applications for the following posts:

पद कोड Post code	पद का नाम एवं वेतन स्तर Name of the Post &Pay Level	रिक्तियों की सं. No. of vacancies
30.	खानपान अधीक्षक / Catering Supervisor स्तर Level - 6 (₹35,400/- – ₹1,12,400/-)	01
31.	परिचारिका-बी / Nurse-B स्तर Level - 7 (₹44,900/- – ₹1,42,400/-)	07
32.	फार्मासिस्ट-ए / Pharmacist-A स्तर Level - 5 (₹29,200/- – ₹92,300/-)	02
33.	रेडियोग्राफर-ए / Radiographer-A स्तर Level - 4 (₹25,500/- – ₹81,100/-)	04
34.	प्रयोगशाला तकनीशियन-ए / Lab Technician-A स्तर Level - 4 (₹25,500/- – ₹81,100/-)	01
35.	प्रयोगशाला तकनीशियन-ए (दंत सुरक्षा चिकित्सक) / Lab Technician-A (Dental Hygienist) स्तर Level - 4 (₹25,500/- – ₹81,100/-)	01
36.	सहायक (राजभाषा) / Assistant (Rajbasha) स्तर Level - 4 (₹25,500/- – ₹81,100/-)	01
37.	रसोइया / Cook स्तर Level - 2 (₹19,900/- – ₹63,200/-)	04
38.	हल्का वाहन चालक 'ए' / Light Vehicle Driver 'A' स्तर Level - 2 (₹19,900/- – ₹63,200/-)	13
39.	भारी वाहन चालक 'ए' / Heavy Vehicle Driver 'A' स्तर Level - 2 (₹19,900/- – ₹63,200/-)	14
40.	फायरमैन 'ए' / Fireman 'A' स्तर Level - 2 (₹19,900/- – ₹63,200/-)	08

कृपया ध्यान दें: इस भर्ती अधिसूचना से संबंधित सभी अद्यतित सूचना केवल एसडीएससी शार की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित की जाएंगी। अतः आवेदकों से अनुरोध है कि वे नियमित रूप से एसडीएससी शार की वेबसाइट http://www.shar.gov.in (अथवा) https://apps.shar.gov.in को देखें ताकि इस भर्ती के बारे में उन्हें अद्यतित सूचना मिल जाए।
Note: All updates w.r.t this Recruitment notification will only be published on SDSC SHAR website. Candidates should therefore, regularly visit the SDSC SHAR website http://www.shar.gov.in(or) https://apps.shar.gov.in for updates on this recruitment.
ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने तथा विस्तृत विज्ञापन के लिए कृपया http://www.shar.gov.in (अथवा) https://apps.shar.gov.in वेबसाइट पर पहुंचें। आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतरि तिथि 24.08.2023(1700 बजे है)
For detailed advertisement to apply online, please visit website https://www.shar.gov.in/ (or) https://apps.shar.gov.in/. Last Date for Receipt of Applications: 24.08.2023 (17.00 hrs).
"सरकार ऐसे कार्यबल की तलाश में है जिसमें लिंग संतुलन हो तथा महिला उम्मीदवारों को आवेदन करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है"
"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply".

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise & A Group Company of IndianOil)
[CIN-L40101TN1965GOI005389]
Regd. Office: No.536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai – 600 018
Tel: 044-24346807/24349959 Email Id: shankarp@cpcl.co.in Website: www.cpcl.co.in

NOTICE OF 57th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the **57th Annual General Meeting ("AGM")** of the members of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited **("Company")** will be held on **Tuesday**, the **22nd August, 2023** at 03:30 PM (IST) through Video Conference / Other Audio Visual Means **("VC/OAVM")** to transact the businesses as set out in the notice of the AGM.

Notice of AGM and Intergrated Annual Report:

In compliance with the MCA & SEBI Circular(s), the Notice setting out the businesses to be transacted at the 57th AGM together with the Integrated Annual Report of the Company for the year 2022-23 **has been sent on July 31st, 2023** through electronic mode to the members whose email address is registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The Notice and the Integrated Annual Report are also available on the Company's website at www.cpcl.co.in and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively, and on the website of KFin Technologies Ltd. at www.kfintech.com.

Remote e-voting and e-voting during AGM:

The Company is providing to the members through KFin Technologies Ltd. the facility to cast their vote(s) on the business as set out in the Notice of the 57th AGM through remote e-voting facility ("remote e-voting) as well as during the AGM to those members who could not cast their vote(s) through remote e-voting. Members are requested to note the following:

i. the company has fixed **Wednesday**, the **16th August, 2023** as the '**Cut Off date**' to ascertain the eligibility of members to vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the AGM.

ii. a person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. **Wednesday 16th August, 2023** only, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or for participation and voting at the AGM.

iii. the remote e-voting period shall be available as under:

Commencement of remote e-voting : from 09:00 am (IST) on Friday, August 18, 2023
End of remote e-voting : till 05:00 pm (IST) on Monday, August 21, 2023

iv. any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice and holds shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at **evoting.cpcl@kfintech.com**. However, if the member is already registered with KFin Technologies Ltd. for remote e-voting then he/she can use their existing User ID and password for casting the vote.

v. the members who have cast their vote through remote e-voting prior to the AGM can also attend / participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the AGM.

vi. the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by KFin Technologies Ltd. after **5.00 PM** (IST) on **Monday 21st, August, 2023**. The votes once cast by the member, cannot be changed subsequently.

vii. those members, who intend to participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM facility and could not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting during the AGM.

viii. the manner of voting for members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM.

Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes set out in the Notice of the AGM with respect to instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting vote etc.

Contact Details:

In case of any queries related to e-voting, the members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the download section of https://evoting.kfintech.com or call on toll free no.: 1800-309-4001 or contact Mr.Mohd. Mohsin, Senior Manager, KFin Technologies Ltd., at the designated email IDs: **evoting.cpcl@kfintech.com** or Phone No.: +91 40 6716 1700 / 09177401094 to get your grievances on e-voting addressed.

For Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
Sd/-
P. Shankar
Company Secretary
M.No. A7624

Place : Chennai
Dated : 3rd August, 2023

INBRIEF

Toyota unveils full hybrid EV Vellfire; price starts at ₹1.2 cr.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) unveiled its all-new Vellfire, a self-charging strong hybrid EV in India on Wednesday. The new Vellfire is designed to offer powerful performance at low fuel consumption, with studies showing such models could run 40% of distance and 60% of time in electric or zero emission mode with engine off, TKM said in a statement. The Hi trim version is priced at ₹1.2 crore (ex-showroom) and VIP Executive Lounge variant costs ₹1.3 crore.

Eicher Motors Q1 net profit rises 50% to ₹918 crore

Eicher Motors Ltd. (EML) reported consolidated net profit for the first quarter rose 50.4% to ₹918 crore from ₹611 crore during the same period last year. The company's total revenue from operations grew 17.3% to ₹ 3,986 crore from the year-earlier period. "This is the best ever Q1 performance for the company, and is also the fourth consecutive quarter of highest ever revenue from operations and PAT," Eicher Motors said in a regulatory filing.

Temasek to invest ₹1,200 cr. in M&M's passenger EV firm

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. and global investment firm Temasek have executed a binding agreement wherein Temasek would invest ₹1,200 crore in Mahindra Electric Automobile Limited (MEAL), the four-wheeler (4W) passenger electric vehicle company. The investment would be in the form of Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS) at a valuation of up to ₹80,580 crore, resulting in Temasek owning about 1.49% to 2.97% stake in MEAL.

'Services PMI hit 13-year high in July, lifted by export surge'

Services sector output rebounded from June's three-month low to fastest since June 2010, buoyed by strong demand and new business gains: S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's services sector output, measured by the S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), rebounded from June's three-month low to a 13-year high of 62.3 in July.

Output levels rose at the sharpest pace since June 2010 as per the survey-based index, with firms citing strong demand and new business gains.

However, the pace of job creation remained "slight" and on par with the previous two months.

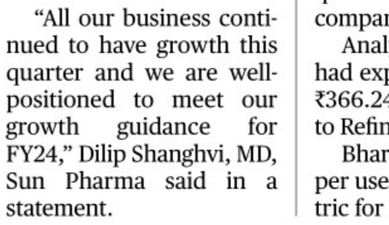
Input costs rose at the fastest pace in 13 months, driven mainly by food, labour and transportation costs, while output prices increased at the slowest rate in three months as firms seemed to be wary of losing fresh contracts.

Firms reported the second-fastest rise in export orders since the index was introduced in 2014, as Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the UAE emerged as key sources of growth.

"The broad increases in sales... are particularly welcoming news especially in light of the challenging global economic scenario," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Services surge

July's sectoral output, measured by the S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), rebounds to a 13-year high of 62.3



- Pace of job creation, however, remains 'slight' and on par with previous two months
- Input costs rise at fastest pace in 13 months, driven mainly by food, labour, transportation
- Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and UAE emerge as key sources of export order growth

Govt. remains 'guarded' over prices even as core inflation softened in Q1

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Even as overall price stability has likely been restored with core inflation softening to a three-year low in the first quarter of 2023-24, the food inflation spike in June due to higher prices for vegetables, fruit and pulses underscores the need for a guarded approach, the Finance Ministry observed on Thursday.

"As inflation has been reined in only recently while threats of supply-side shocks, including El Nino, persist, the Reserve Bank of India and the government continue to be guarded for appropriate and timely policy response," the ministry said in its economic review for June.

"The progress in establishing price stability is not transient, as the decline in inflation is backed by softening of international prices of several commodities... [yet] the inflation levels for the advanced economies are still higher than their respective target levels, as core inflation remains sticky," the ministry noted, underlining the contrast with India's softening price gains in non-food, non-energy items.

"Negative cross-border spillovers and adverse global developments can act anytime as a deterrent to achieving the potential high growth path in the current financial year," the ministry cautioned.

Sun Pharma Q1 net slides 23% on Taro

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. reported consolidated first quarter net profit dropped 23% to ₹2,232 crore as compared with ₹2,916.8 crore in the year-earlier period, dragged down by the lower profitability at Taro.

Gross sales, at ₹11,785 crore, grew 10.7% against the same period the earlier year, the company said in a filing.

India formulation sales, at ₹3,560 crore, grew 5.1% year-over-year. India formulation sales accounted for about 30% of total consolidated sales.

Dilip Shanghvi

"All our business continued to have growth this quarter and we are well-positioned to meet our growth guidance for FY24," Dilip Shanghvi, MD, Sun Pharma said in a statement.

Bharti Q1 sales climb 14%, tariffs lift ARPU

Reuters
BENGALURU

Bharti Airtel reported a bigger-than-expected first-quarter revenue on Thursday, helped by the steady addition of 4G subscribers and tariff increases.

Consolidated revenue from operations rose 14.1% to ₹374.40 billion for the quarter ended June 30, the company said in a filing.

Analysts, on average, had expected a revenue of ₹366.24 billion, according to Refinitiv IBES data.

Bharti's average revenue per user (ARPU), a key metric for telecommunication companies, rose more than 9% year-on-year to ₹200, an increase of 3.6% from the previous quarter, thanks to its much-anticipated tariff increases.

The company also added 5.6 million 4G subscribers during the quarter, with its total 4G customer count growing 2.5% from the preceding quarter, and 11.9% from the year-earlier period to 229.7 million.

Indian telecom companies had been recording slower-than-expected revenue growth in recent quarters, under the load of massive 5G spectrum spends.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,241	-0.82
US Dollar	82.74	-0.08
Gold	60,100	-0.24
Brent oil	84.72	2.03

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2532.60	59.05
Adani Ports	773.35	11.90
Apollo Hosp	4996.30	-0.45
Asian Paints	3336.35	-26.55
Axis Bank	935.55	-9.70
Bajaj Auto	4826.30	-5.80
Bajaj Finserv	1493.65	-33.35
Bajaj Finance	7108.35	-95.10
Bharti Airtel	871.70	-6.40
BPCL	368.00	-1.10
Britannia Ind	4798.95	-10.50
Cipla	1165.85	-2.45
Coal India	230.05	-4.50
Divis Lab	3726.30	35.70
Dr Reddys Lab	5659.50	-0.95
Dummy - Jio Financial Services Ltd.	261.85	0.00
Eicher Motors	3379.70	47.00
Grasim Ind	1830.55	9.55
HCL Tech	1125.50	-5.40
HDFC Bank	1628.65	-11.85
HDFC Life	632.70	-10.15
Hero MotoCorp	2952.40	-41.05
Hindalco	453.30	-1.20
Hind Unilever	2551.30	-17.65
ICICI Bank	965.00	-21.95
IndusInd Bank	1364.50	-16.75
Infosys	1364.30	7.45
ITC	456.05	-4.05
JSW Steel	804.45	0.20
Kotak Bank	1823.25	-0.45
L&T	2598.10	-24.05
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4869.90	3.95
M&M	1469.15	-16.15
Maruti Suzuki	9543.70	-110.10
NestleIndia	22475.80	-406.50
NTPC	220.10	1.00
ONGC	172.10	-3.85
PowerGrid Corp	248.70	0.15
Reliance Ind	2475.90	-10.45
SBI Life	1253.75	-8.50
State Bank	590.50	-7.95
Sun Pharma	1141.00	5.75
TataConsumerProduct	835.40	-7.65
Tata Motors	618.95	-3.70
Tata Steel	118.20	-0.75
TCS	3399.95	-40.70
Tech Mahindra	1142.80	-2.85
Titan	2902.10	-75.05
UltraTech Cement	8136.15	-151.55
UPL	600.45	-18.70
Wipro	399.65	-3.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.52	82.84
Euro	90.13	90.48
British Pound	104.40	104.82
Japanese Yen (100)	57.73	57.96
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.55
Swiss Franc	94.09	94.46
Singapore Dollar	61.45	61.70
Canadian Dollar	61.72	61.97
Malaysian Ringitt	18.11	18.19
Australian Dollar	53.85	54.07

Source:Indian Bank

TII Q1 net climbs 10%, revenue shrinks 9%

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) standalone net profit for the June quarter rose 10% from the year-earlier period to ₹148 crore.

Revenue from operations contracted by 9% to ₹1,672 crore on muted demand. Free cash flow stood at ₹97 crore, said the Murugappa group company in a statement.

Revenue dips

Segment-wise revenue of engineering and mobility divisions declined even as metal-formed products posted an increase.

"Though the mobility division was affected by sluggish demand, the engineering and metal-formed products registered good profit driven by good growth in the automobile industry," said Chairman M.A.M. Arunachalam.

M.A.M. Arunachalam

"Our electric-vehicle business under TI Clean Mobility is making a steady progress and we expect revenue to pick up from the coming quarters."

MRF Q1 net surges fivefold to ₹581 cr. on higher sales volume

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The result included subsidy/incentive of ₹7.28 crore received from State governments

MRF Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the June quarter rose more than fivefold from the year-earlier period to ₹581 crore due to increase in sales volume and softening of input costs.

Revenue from operations increased 13% to ₹6,323 crore, while material costs declined to ₹3,722 crore from ₹4,043 crore, the tyre major said in a regulatory filing.

The result included subsidy/incentive of ₹7.28 crore received from State governments.

On August 3, the company's board approved the reappointment of K.M. Mammen as managing director for a period of five years from February 8, 2024. His present tenure expires on February 7, 2024.

The board also approved the reappointment of Vimla Abraham as independent women director for a second term of five years commencing from February 5, 2024, on expiry of her earlier term.

Karnataka Bank posts Q1 net profit of ₹370.7 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Karnataka Bank on Thursday announced first-quarter net profit more than tripled to ₹370.7 crore from ₹114.18 crore registered during the April-June quarter of 2022-23.

The bank's operating profit in Q1 stood at ₹601.17 crore and net interest income was at ₹814.68 crore.

The quality of its loan book improved steadily with gross non-performing assets declining to 3.68% as against 4.03% in Q1 of 2022-23 and net non-performing assets (NPAs) declining to 1.43% from 2.16%.

'Viscose spun yarn set to log $2.5-bn revenue'

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Viscose spinners' volume may grow 15% y-o-y this fiscal, aided by sustained domestic demand

Revenue of the Indian viscose spun yarn (VSY) industry is set to climb 10%-12% to an all-time high of more than $2.5 billion in 2023-2024 on account of continuing strong demand, Crisil Ratings said.

An analysis of VSY companies by Crisil indicates even as yarn prices dip, overall profitability may raise by 200-300 basis points.

Removal of levy

The removal of anti-dumping duty on imports on viscose staple fibre (VSF) also helped steady VSY prices, Crisil said.

Viscose spinners' volume is expected to grow 15% y-o-y this fiscal, supported by sustained domestic demand and a revival in export demand during the second half, said Himank Sharma, director, of Crisil Ratings, in a release.

"Overall, segmental growth will be in low double digits," he added.

Meanwhile, Executive Director of Pallavaa Textiles, Durai Palanisamy, told *The Hindu* while domestic demand for viscose yarn was decent, the export demand was poor.

Zomato posts first-ever profit earlier than expected

Reuters
BENGALURU

India's Zomato posted its first-ever profit, one quarter earlier than expected, helped by a tax gain and strong orders in food and grocery delivery.

Zomato expected to hit this milestone in the September quarter, said CFO Akshant Goyal, adding they were being conservative with that guidance.

Zomato expects business to stay profitable going forward while delivering a 40% y-o-y topline growth for at least the next couple of years, he said. Gross order value rose 14% in food-delivery business.

LOCAL HELP

Indian physio Rajakamal to assist Pakistan hockey team

The Pakistan hockey team's Chennai connect got a little stronger with city-based sports physiotherapist Rajakamal joining the team for the duration of the competition on Wednesday. "Being with a national team is always prestigious whether Pakistan or anyone else. They have been very welcoming and nice," said Rajakamal.

CRICKET OFFICIAL NO MORE

Sunil Dev, manager in India's 2007 T20 WC campaign, passes away

Former Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) secretary Sunil Dev passed away on Wednesday after a prolonged illness. He was 75 and is survived by his wife and children. Dev's moment of glory came when he became administrative manager of the Indian team that won the inaugural 2007 T20 World Cup in South Africa.

IT'S FINAL

Moeen confirms retirement; will not travel to India for Test series

Confirming that the fifth Ashes Test against Australia was the last traditional format match of his career, England all-rounder Moeen Ali said he will not travel to India next year for a Test series. "There is no way I am going (to India). It is nice to finish like this. Test cricket is the best cricket."

BIG BLOW

Tamim steps down from ODI captaincy, pulls out of Asia Cup

Tamim Iqbal stepped down on Thursday as captain of Bangladesh's ODI side and also pulled out of the Asia Cup to be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka in August and September. The 34-year-old opening batter announced his decision, citing an injury problem, after holding a meeting with officials of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Gukesh overtakes Anand in live world rankings

Besides the young achiever, Praggnanandhaa and Nihal Sarin also progress to the next round with ease; Indian women, too, have a rewarding day as Humpy, Harika, Vaishali and Divya advance

CHESS WORLD CUP

Rakesh Rao

As widely anticipated, D. Gukesh overtook Viswanathan Anand in live world rankings after overpowering home favourite Misratdin Iskandarov in 44 moves for the second time in their second-round match in the FIDE World Cup at Baku (Azerbaijan) on Thursday.

The latest gain of 2.5 rating points raised Gukesh's live rating to 2755.9 to Anand's 2754.0. With this, Gukesh replaced Anand as the World No. 9 in live rankings while the five-time World champion slipped to 10th.

Anand, who first made it to the World's top-10 in July 1991, has remained India's top-ranked player in all published lists since January 1987.

Should Gukesh stay ahead of Anand till the release of the next ranking list on 1st September, the 17-year-old will become the first Indian to figure ahead of Anand in the World rankings since Pravin Thipsay in July 1986. At that time, Thipsay was rated 2485 to Anand's 2420.

In fact, this is the second time, in live ratings, that Anand is seen behind a compatriot. On March 16, 2016, Anand temporarily trailed P. Harikrishna.

Time for new order: It was a superb feat for Gukesh to surpass his idol Anand. FLICKR/GRANDCHESSTOUR

That brief change of guard was due to Anand's loss to Sergey Karjakin in the Candidates tournament. This defeat brought down his live rating to 2763.0 below Harikrishna's 2763.3. At that time, Harikrishna was placed 13 and Anand 14.

Gukesh, who recently became the youngest to reach 2750 in live ratings, is firmly focused on breaching the 2800-mark. He will be preparing to play compatriot S. L. Narayanan for a place in the next round.

In keeping with their reputation, the teen trio of Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa and Nihal Sarin eased into the third round on a day when the Indian women had a fruitful outing.

K. Humpy, D. Harika, R. Vaishali and Divya Deshmukh advanced on Thursday but Mary Ann Gomes impressed again by making light of a rating difference of over 200 points to hold Kateryna Lagno. Tie-break games will decide the fate of Mary on Friday.

The results:

Round 2: Game 2: Open: S.L. Narayanan (2656, 1.5) bt Yuriy Kuzubov (Ukr, 2628, 0.5); Misratdin Iskandrov (Aze, 2551, 0) lost to D. Gukesh (2744, 2); Peter Svidler (FIDE, 2688, 1.5) drew with Abhimanyu Puranik (2605, 0.5); Daniil Dubov (FIDE, 2716, 1.5) drew with B. Adhiban (2587, 0.5); Dimitrios Mastrovasilis (Gre, 2587, 1) drew with Vidit Gujrathi (2719, 1); Alex Bachmann (Par, 2604, 0) lost to Nihal Sarin (2688, 2); Arjun Erigaisi (2710, 1) drew with Sergie Azarov (FIDE, 2589, 1); R. Praggnanandhaa (2690, 1.5) drew with Maxime Lagarde (Fra, 2599, 0.5); Karthik Venkataraman (2565, 1) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 2789, 1).

Women: Pauline Gulchard (Fra, 2384, 0.5) drew with R. Vaishali (2431, 1.5); Kateryna Lagno (FIDE, 2552, 1) drew with Mary Ann Gomes (2326, 1); N. Priyanka (2293, 0.5) drew with K. Humpy (2553, 1.5); D. Harika (2500, 2) bt Michalina Rudzinska (Pol, 2257, 0); Divya Deshmukh (2400, 1.5) bt Hoang Thanh Trang (Hun, 2402, 0.5).

India begins with 7-2 thrashing of China; Malaysia beats Pakistan

ACT HOCKEY

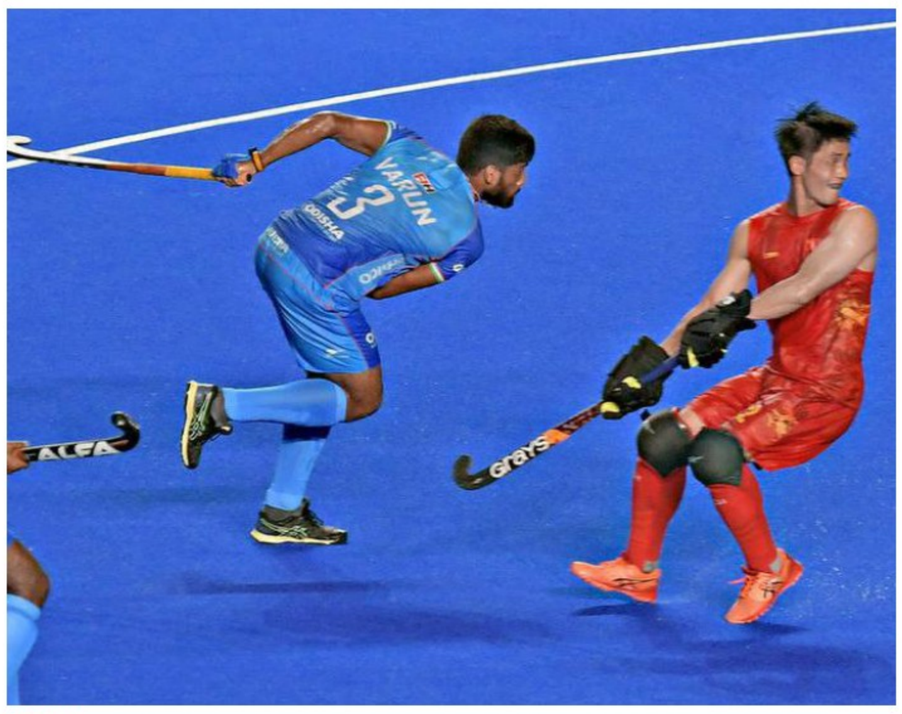
Uthra Ganesan
CHENNAI

The highest and lowest ranked sides in the competition clashed here on Thursday night and India expectedly walked away with the honours, thrashing China 7-2 to kickstart its Asian Champions Trophy hockey campaign on a winning note.

It was all about the host from the beginning, dominating both possession and proceedings and barely allowing the Chinese space to reach the Indian third.

The goal-spree started in the fifth minute and India did not take its foot off the pedal, going 3-0 up by the end of first quarter. With the entire team pressing forward, China scrambled to defend.

It did try to fight back, getting two goals in the second quarter – the first an easy one with an absent defence – but despite the hosts dropping pace a bit, China could not push past the Indian midfield.



A brace: Varun Kumar got onto the scoresheet twice. M. VEDHAN

Tough conditions

The humidity did not make things any easier for China.

While the hosts too struggled, getting erratic towards the end and failing to score in the final 15 minutes – China goalkeeper Caiyu Wang brought off some impressive saves to deny the Indians – they had done enough get full points in the bag.

If there still remains some concern for the Indian side, it would be the over-reliance on penalty corners to get the goals.

India earned ten and converted six, Harmanpreet Singh and Varun Kumar adding two each while Sukhjeet Singh and Mandeep Singh got in deflections.

India's only field goal came in the 16th minute when Akashdeep Singh struck in from the left as the players seemed to only focus on penalty corners every time they entered the circle. It might not have mattered in the opening game but against stronger opponents, the team would do well to have more scoring options.

Also registering a 3-1 victory was Malaysia over Pakistan, the difference in fitness and experience between the two sides clearly visible.

Pakistan tried to attack constantly, forcing six penalty corners and a stroke through the game but failed to break the deadlock.

Malaysia, playing more on the counter, was equally off-target before quick turnovers and an absent defence saw Firhan Ashari slam two goals within one minute towards the end of the second quarter as it took control of the proceedings.

Earlier in the day, defending champion Korea came back from being a goal down to win 2-1 over reigning Asian Games champion Japan, struggling in the first quarter but gradually settling down to stay in control thereafter.

The results: Korea 2 (Cheo Leon Park, Jung Hoo Kim) bt Japan 1 (Ryoma Ooka).

Malaysia 3 (Firhan Ashari 2, Shello Silverius) bt Pakistan 1 (Abdul Rehman).

India 7 (Harmanpreet Singh 2, Varun Kumar 2, Sukhjeet Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Mandeep Singh) bt China 2 (E. Wenhui, Jiesheng Gao).

Tilak impresses but India comes a cropper in modest chase in first T20I

INDIA IN WEST INDIES

Agence France-Presse
TAROUBA

Tilak Varma looked at home on his international debut before India made a mess of a modest run-chase to lose the opening T20I against the West Indies by four runs here on Thursday.

Rovman Powell (48, 32b, 3x4, 3x6) played a captain's knock while Brandon King (28, 19b, 4x4, 1x6) and Nicholas Pooran (41, 34, 2x4, 2x6) chipped into take West Indies to 149 for six after the hosts opted to bat.

With 37 needed off the last 30 balls and six wickets in hand, India self-destructed to end at 145 for nine in 20 overs.

Jason Holder brought the West Indies back into the game by producing a maiden in the 16th over, when he found the stumps of India skipper Hardik Pandya (19) before Sanju Samson (12) got run out.

Tailender Arshdeep Singh (12) made the game interesting with a couple of fours in the penultimate over. Romario Shepherd managed to defend 10 runs off the final over.

The sole bright spot of the chase was Tilak's fearless 39 (22b, 2x4, 3x6).

The opening duo of Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill perished cheaply before Suryakumar Yadav (21) and Tilak got together. After a run-a-ball 21, Suryakumar was caught brilliantly by Shimron Hetmyer.

Holding sway: Holder dried the run flow and struck in tandem. AFP

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES

Brandon King lbw b Chahal 28 *(19b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Kyle Mayers lbw b Chahal 1 *(7b)*, Johnson Charles c Tilak b Kuldeep 3 *(6b)*, Nicholas Pooran c Tilak b Hardik 41 *(34b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Rovman Powell c Suryakumar b Arshdeep 48 *(32b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer c Axar b Arshdeep 10 *(12b, 1x4)*, Romario Shepherd (not out) 4 *(6b)*, Jason Holder (not out) 6 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-6, nb-1): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-29 (Mayers, 4.1 overs), 2-30 (King, 4.3), 3-58 (Charles, 7.3), 4-96 (Pooran, 14.1), 5-134 (Hetmyer, 18.1), 6-138 (Powell, 18.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-31-2, Mukesh 3-0-24-0, Axar 2-0-22-0, Chahal 3-0-24-2, Hardik 4-0-27-1, Kuldeep 4-0-20-1.

INDIA

Ishan Kishan c Powell b McCoy 6 *(9b, 1x4)*, Shubman Gill st. Pooran b Hosein 3 *(9b)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Hetmyer b Holder 21 *(21b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Tilak Varma c Hetmyer b Shepherd 39 *(22b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Hardik Pandya b Holder 19 *(19b, 3x4)*, Sanju Samson run out 12 *(12b, 1x6)*, Axar Patel c Hetmyer b McCoy 13 *(11b, 1x6)*, Kuldeep Yadav b Shepherd 3 *(9b)*, Arshdeep Singh run out 12 *(7b, 2x4)*, Yuzvendra Chahal (not out) 1 *(1b)*, Mukesh Kumar (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-9, w-5, nb-1): 15; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 145.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Gill, 2.2), 2-28 (Kishan, 4.5), 3-67 (Suryakumar, 9.2), 4-77 (Tilak, 10.6), 5-113 (Hardik, 15.1), 6-113 (Samson, 15.3), 7-129 (Axar, 18.1), 8-140 (Kuldeep, 19.1), 9-144 (Arshdeep, 19.5).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Hosein 4-0-17-1, McCoy 4-0-28-2, Joseph 4-0-39-0, Holder 4-1-19-2, Shepherd 4-0-33-2.

Toss: WI; **PoM:** Holder.

West Indies won by four runs to lead five-match series 1-0.

Second T20I: August 6, Providence (Guyana), 8 p.m. IST.

Rohan's blistering ton highlights South's success in high-scoring final

DEODHAR TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
PUDUCHERRY

Rohan Kunnummal saved his best for the last as his breathtaking 107 (75b, 11x4, 4x6) helped South Zone to the Deodhar Trophy title, with a 45-run win over East Zone in a high-scoring and thrilling final, here on Thursday. South made it a double, having won the Duleep Trophy earlier in the season.

Electing to bat, Rohan and skipper Mayank Agarwal (64) stitched a 181-run opening wicket stand off just 152 balls to lay the foundation for South's big score (328 for eight).

In reply, East stuttered at the start and slumped to 13 for three. But just when it looked like South would run away with it, Riyan Parag (95, 65b, 8x4, 5x6) and Kumar Kushagra (68, 58b, 6x4, 3x6) turned things around with some sensational hitting in a 105-run stand for the sixth wicket.

Mission accomplished: South Zone capped off a great run with the big prize on Thursday. S.S. KUMAR

Parag put on a masterclass of backfoot power-hitting as he punished the South bowlers even if they were a touch short and repeatedly pulling pacers and spinners alike with disdain over the mid-wicket fence.

After a slow start at the other end, Kushagra joined the party, hitting Koushik for three boundaries with stylish pulls and cuts in one over. He then took on Washington Sundar (3/60), hitting him for three sixes over the leg side, the first of which got him to his half-century.

Earlier, Rohan came with an uncluttered mind to take the attack to the opposition and kept lofting the East Zone pacers over the 30-yard circle.

After getting a reprieve on 41, when Parag dropped him off Akash Deep, the Kerala batter hit consecutive boundaries off the same bowler to bring up his half-century in just 33 balls. Rohan, who never let the intensity down and took on the spinners, got to his century in style off just 69 balls. N. Jagadeesan's grinding 54 ensured South ended up with an above-par score.

The scores:

South Zone 328/8 in 50 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 107, Mayank Agarwal 64, N. Jagadeesan 54) bt East Zone 283 in 46.1 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 41, Riyan Parag 95, Kumar Kushagra 68, Washington Sundar 3/60).

INBRIEF

Sindhu, Srikanth, Prannoy, and Rajawat in last eight

P.V. Sindhu, K. Srikanth, H.S. Prannoy, and Priyanshu Rajawat moved into the quarterfinals of the Australian Open badminton BWF Super 500 tournament in Sydney on Thursday.

The results (second round): Men: K. Srikanth bt Li Yang Su (Tpe) 21-10, 21-17; H.S. Prannoy bt Yu Jen Chi (Tpe) 21-19, 21-19, 21-13; Priyanshu Rajawat bt Tzu Wei Wang (Tpe) 21-8, 13-21, 21-19; Zii Jia Lee (Mas) bt Mithun Manjunath 21-13, 12-21, 21-19; Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Ina) bt Kiran George 21-15, 21-18.
Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-14, 21-10.
Doubles: Mayu Matsumoto & Wakana Nagahara (Jpn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 2-10, 22-20.

Kapil Sonowal claims bronze in 102kg youth category

Kapil Sonowal totalled 276kg in the 102kg youth category to finish with bronze behind the Iranian duo of Abolfazl Zare (348kg) and Abolfazl Shahvandi Kiani (318kg) in the Asian youth and junior wegithlifting championships in Greater Noida on Thursday.

The results: Men: Youth, 102kg: Abolfazl Zare (Iri, 348kg), Abolfazl Shahvandi Kiani (Iri, 318kg), Kapil Sonowal (Ind, 276kg); **+102kg:** Taha Moghaddam Nemati (Iri, 366kg), Hamidraza Mohammaditanha (Iri, 350kg), Yu-Cheng Wang (Tpe, 313kg). **Junior, 102kg:** Huijin Jeong (Kor, 350kg), Abolfazl Zare (Iri, 348kg), Jui-Li Lin (Tpe, 318kg).
Women: Youth, 81kg: Anamjan Rustamova (Tkm, 228kg), KooKo Chen (Tpe, 178kg), Hassan Layan Alqurashi (KSA, 128kg). **Junior, 81kg:** Anamjan Rustamova (Tkm, 228kg), Nigora Suvonova (Uzb, 206kg), Hsin-Hsiu Wang (Tpe, 194kg).

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Women's World Cup, FanCode, 10.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.

Hockey: Asian Champions Trophy, FanCode, 4, 6.15 & India vs Japan, 8.30 p.m.

Germany joins list of big name exits while Morocco makes history

The former champion suffers earliest departure in the competition, Colombia tops Group H despite losing

WOMEN'S WC

Agence France-Presse
BRISBANE

A Women's World Cup full of shocks had its biggest yet when Germany was dumped out in the group phase on Thursday following a stalemate with South Korea, with debutants Morocco progressing instead.

Germany's 1-1 draw with the Koreans coupled with Morocco's surprise 1-0 victory over Colombia saw the European side suffer its earliest exit in Women's World Cup history.

Germany follow Brazil and Italy out of the competition in double-quick time.

Colombia topped Group H despite losing and will face Jamaica in the last 16.

Grand start: Moroccon players are ecstatic after securing a last-16 berth. GETTY IMAGES

Morocco progressed into the knockouts on its World Cup debut also with two wins and a defeat, and meets France next. Germany was third and condemned to an an early flight home.

The two-times former champion Germany came into the game knowing that a win over South Korea would put it in the last 16.

Pre-quarterfinal line-up
Switzerland v Spain; Japan v Norway; Netherlands v South Africa; Sweden v United States; England v Nigeria; Australia v Denmark; Colombia v Jamaica; France v Morocco.

But it started badly, conceding to a smart Cho So-hyun finish after just six minutes and looking shaky at the back early on.

Germany equalised just before half-time with an Alexandra Popp header but for all its possession, last year's European finalist failed to get the second goal it desperately needed.

The results: Group H: South Korea 1 (Cho 6) drew with Germany 1 (Popp 42); Morocco 1 (Lahmari 45+4) bt Colombia 0.

Tiwary calls time on cricketing career

Shayan Acharya

Around this time last year, Manoj Tiwary was at a crossroads, debating whether he should continue playing for another season or call time on his cricketing career. Bengal had just been knocked out of the Ranji Trophy in the semifinals.

On Thursday, he ended his long and illustrious First Class career with over 9,000 runs at an average of 48-plus, with 29 hundreds and 45 fifties and a highest score of 303 not out.

Over the last few years, Tiwary had only made himself available for red-ball cricket in a bid to manage his workload.

"Cricket is a muscle-memory game and it is important to train hard and do the basics right," he said.

SNAPSHOTS

Bagan youth team too good for Bangladesh Army

The Mohun Bagan Super Giant youth team eased past Bangladesh Army 5-0 to open its Group-A league campaign on a strong note in the 132nd Durand Cup football tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Thursday.

Preferring to rest most of its senior team players, Mohun Bagan took control of the proceedings right from the start and found the lead in the 14th minute through Liston Colaco. Mohun Bagan doubled the lead in the 29th minute off a penalty converted by Manvir Singh.The third came in the 40th minute when Suhail Ahmed Bhat scored off a Colaco assist. Bangladesh Army was reduced to 10 men in the first-half injury time (45+3) when its defender Mijanur Rahaman was sent off following his second booking of the match. It became 4-0 in the second half with Lalrinliana Hnamte finding the target in the 58th. Substitute Kiyan Nassiri completed the tally in the 89th minute.

The result: Mohun Bagan Super Giant 5 (Colaco 14, Manvir 29-pen, Suhail 40, Hnamte 58, Nassiri 89) bt Bangladesh Army 0.

Pakistan awaits security nod for ICC WC

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is expected to get clearance for sending its team for the 50-over World Cup, provided that a security delegation visits India and gives its nod.

PM Shehbaz Sharif has formed a committee to review and decide on Pakistan's participation in the World Cup. The committee is due to meet on Thursday under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto. Zaka Ashraf, the chairman of the PCB Management Committee, will also attend the meeting.

Shankar joint sixth

High jumper Tejaswin Shankar, with 2.15m, finished joint sixth at the World University Games, in Chengdu on Thursday.

The results (gold medallists & Indian performances in finals): Men: 400m: 1. Ricardo Coelho (Por) 44.79s. **1500m:** 1. Robert Benoit (Fra) 3:38.61s.

3000m steeple chase: 1. Christian Mergenthaler (Ger) 8:38.42s. **High jump:** 1. Vladyslay Lavskyi (Ukr) 2.25m, 6. Tejaswin Shankar (Ind) 2.15. **Triple jump:** 1. Su Wen (Chn) 17.01m. **Decathlon:** 1. Vilem Strasky (Cze) 7925 pts; 8. Yamandeep Sharma (Ind) 6897 pts, 10. Stalin Joes Stephen (Ind) 6393.

Women: 400m: 1. Marlie Viljoen (RSA) 52.38s. **800m:** 1. Laura Pellicoro (Ita) 2:04.20s. **400m hurdles:** 1. Alice Muraro (Ita) 55.48s. **Javelin throw:** 1. Eda Tugsuz (Tur) 59.05m.

Another good day for compound archers

Indian compound archers had another fine day with four of them reaching the individual events' quarterfinals and keeping medal hopes alive in the World archery championships in Berlin on Thursday. Sixth-ranked Ojas Deotale in the men's section and three women, second-placed V. Jyothi Surekha, sixth-seeded Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur, entered the last eight.

I love hockey, so I am surviving: Shivendra

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Shivendra Singh was a flamboyant striker and a natural crowd-puller in his heyday. With over 160 Internationals and around 80 strikes to his credit, he was one of the finest goal-scorers for India.

Now, as part of the coaching staff of the Indian hockey team at the Asian Champions Trophy here, Shivendra's role is multi-fold. Apart from the coaching duties, the 40-year-old is the manager, and at times, the goalkeeping coach too. "At the moment, I am enjoying it. I love hockey, so I am surviving," Shivendra told *The Hindu*. "I teach the players the knack of scoring goals, how to receive the ball, how to score from rebounds. In fact, I explain to them everything."

Shivendra Singh. M. VEDHAN

Shivendra said he has been actively coaching the goalkeepers for the past one year.

"I am learning from them [goalkeepers]. I practice with P.R. Sreejesh every day. Also, I have worked in special camps for 'keepers. Recently, we had a camp with goalkeeping coach Dennis van de Pol of Netherlands."

Even though he has played in many parts of India and across the globe, Chennai has a special place in Shivendra's heart.

It was here that India won the Asia Cup in 2007 and he was one of the architects of the triumph. Shivendra was in his prime then, scoring 13 goals in the tournament.

"Chennai is always special. That [Asia Cup] will remain the best final of my career [beating Korea 7-2 in the title clash]. Prabhjot Singh scored 15 goals, Raghunath 13, Tushar [Khandekar] 10 and Rajpal [Singh] nine. We did well because we had speedy forwards and great coordination. Our counters were good and so were the rebounds."

In the Asia Cup, Dilip Tirkey, now Hockey India president, was the man who kept the team's excitement under check. "Whenever we had the momentum and were bursting with energy, Dilip *bhai* asked us to control our exuberance and warned us not to be over-confident. He was experienced and was always calm," said Shivendra.

BENGALURU ROUND UP

BFC names 28-man squad for Durand Cup

Bengaluru FC, on Thursday, announced a 28-man squad for its Durand Cup defence which will begin against Indian Air Force FT on August 14 at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan in Santoshpur, Kolkata.

Alongside IAF FT, the Bibiano Fernandes-coached BFC has Kerala Blasters FC and Gokulam Kerala FC for company in Group C.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Amrit Gope, Vikram Singh, Sahil Poonia; **Defenders:** Haobam Ricky Meetei, Clarence Savio Fernandes, Surajkumar Singh Ngangbam, Thokchom Malemngamba Singh, Robin Yadav, Parag Shrivas, Felixson Conny Fernandes, Shankar Sampingiraj, Chingambam Shivaldo Singh; **Midfielders:** Lalremtluanga Fanai, Shreyas Ketkar, Bekey Oram, Amay Morajkar, Vinith Venkatesh, Harsh Patre, F. Lalhmingchhuanga, C.K. Rashid; **Strikers:** Edmund Lalrindika, Monirul Molla, Ashish Jha, Ankith Padmanabhan, Satendra Singh, Lalpekhlua, Salam Johnson Singh, Shashwat Panwar.

Triumphant: The Canara Bank team that won the Hockey Karnataka League Championship. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Big win for Blue Star

Blue Star FC hammered Rare Dare FC 19-2 in the KSFA Bangalore North & South C-division league here on Thursday.

The results:
Bangalore North East FC 3 bt Blue Panthers FC 1; North East FC 6 bt Blue Diamond FC 0; Blue Star FC 19 bt Rare Dare FC 2.

Canara Bank bags Hockey Karnataka League

Canara Bank held DYES-A to a 1-1 draw to finish top of the table and secure the Hockey Karnataka League Championship here on Thursday. While Canara Bank ended with 20 points from eight matches, DYES-A accumulated 17.

AGORC, which defeated Customs & GST 5-2 on the final day, had to settle for third spot despite having 17 points, courtesy an inferior goal difference (19 to DYES-A's 23).

The results: AGORC 5 (Mohd. Naeem 17, 46, Nithin Thimmaiah 18, Trishul Ganapathi 40, Mohd. Raheel 45) bt Customs & GST 2 (Chiran Medappa 5, S.V. Sunil 37); Canara Bank 1 (M.K. Chethan 27) drew with DYES-A 1 (M.K. Bharath 3).

Easy for St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's Boys High School beat Greenwood High School 4-1 in the Centenary Shield (U-17) hockey tournament here on Thursday.

The results:

U-17: St. Joseph's Boys HS 4 (Jayden Reeves 2, Godwin Antony 6, Tanush Thammaiah 11, Jeetan Saldanha 38) bt Greenwood HS 1 (Sidhesh Manivannan 14).

U-14: Vidyashilp Academy 6 (Etaan Piers 2, 31, 32, P. Skanda Coushik 10, Ishanth A. Gowda 14, 25) bt Greenwood HS 0.

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